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Prince Hassan, Princess Sarvath return home

AMMAN (Petra) — Their Royal Highnesses Crown Prince Hassan and Princess Sarvath returned home Friday evening after concluding a several-day private visit to Britain. Their Royal Highnesses Prince Faisal and Princess Alia Al Faisal received Prince Hassan and Princess Sarvath, who were also welcomed at the airport by the prime minister and speakers of the Lower and Upper Houses of Parliament, the Chief of the Royal Court, the British ambassador to Jordan and other high-ranking officials.

Rockets fired at Israeli-held zone

TYRE (AFP) — Guerrillas Friday fired rockets at positions held by the Israeli army and its allied militia in South Lebanon, the third such attack in 24 hours, security sources said. Two rockets targeted positions held by the army and the South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia at Achiye in Israel's self-declared "security zone," they said. Seven B-7 anti-tank rockets were also fired minutes later. No casualties were reported. The Israeli army retaliated by firing 22 mortar shells on hills surrounding the "security zone," the sources said.

Lebanon demands U.S. cancel ban

BEIRUT (R) — Beirut demanded Friday that Washington cancel its order for airlines to stop U.S. sales of tickets to Lebanon and suggested Israel might be behind the American move. The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) on Thursday ordered U.S. and foreign airlines to halt sale of tickets to Lebanon and to refund money to passengers who have bought them. "We do not want to compete with the American government over enforcing its regulations but we demand that it cancel this decision," Lebanese Transport Minister Omar Miskaw told reporters.

U.S. signs Biodiversity Treaty

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — The United States Friday dropped a year of opposition and signed the Biodiversity Treaty designed to protect the world's disappearing plant and animal species. Former President George Bush had refused to sign the convention at the Earth summit in Rio de Janeiro last year, breaking with the European Community, Japan and more than 150 other nations that signed the agreement.

Family barred from visiting Saudi activist

NICOSIA (AFP) — Saudi authorities have banned family members from visiting the jailed spokesman for a new Saudi human rights group denounced by Riyadh, the Liberty Organisation has said. Since the spokesman for the Committee for the Defence of Legitimate Rights (CDLR), Muhammad Al Masari, was detained May 15, "neither his wife nor his parents have been able to visit him or contact him," Liberty said. Liberty, a London-based organisation specialising in the defence of human rights in the Muslim world, said it was quoting Sheikh Abdullah Al Masari, the CDLR secretary general and Muhammad's father. He also denied rumors his son had been released.

French immigration official quits

PARIS (R) — The head of France's International Migration Office (OMI) has resigned in protest, warning that the new conservative government could lead to attacks on foreigners. Pierre-Louis Remy said in a resignation letter published by French newspapers on Friday: "I disagree with the general tone of the bills presented (to parliament) and the statements which accompany them." Citing statements by hardline Interior Minister Charles Pasqua, he wrote: "I fear the assertion that we should aim for zero immigration, will lead to the integration of foreigners who are legally resident in France today."

Security Council votes to protect Bosnia havens

UNITED NATIONS (Agencies) — The Security Council voted Friday to send heavily-armed troops to protect six Muslim enclaves in Bosnia-Herzegovina despite scepticism by several members that the plan would stop Serb offensives.

European sponsors of the resolution hope at least 5,000 additional troops, backed by air power, can be found to guard the capital of Sarajevo and the towns of Tuzla, Zepa, Srebrenica, Gorazde and Bihac.

The vote was 13-0 with two abstentions, Pakistan and Venezuela.

Bosnia's ambassador, Mohammad Sacirbey, delivered a blistering speech to the council before the vote. He said the council was creating an "incomprehensible scenario" by sending troops only to six cities, thereby creating "new non-safe areas."

"U.N. forces will be mostly defending ghost towns or succumb to the evil will of Serbian forces," Mr. Sacirbey predicted.

Many members from developing countries agree with Bosnia's Muslim government that the United Nations should take even tougher action. They say setting up U.N.-guarded regions will

confine a million Muslims to ghettos and recognise Serb territorial gains.

Diego Arria, Venezuela's ambassador, mocked the goals of the operation by quoting a U.N. spokesman in Bosnia as recommending posting a sign outside Gorazde reading, "very dangerous safe area, keep out."

The United States, France, Britain, Spain and Russia argue, however, that the safe havens are only temporary, meant to save lives pending a political settlement.

Deployment of the troops is months away, in part because the council will have to pass another resolution when Secretary-General Boutros Ghali makes recommendations about how many are needed and other operational details.

The British ambassador warned against building high expectations.

"This resolution is not a magic wand. It isn't going to cast a mantle over the safe areas tomorrow, the minute after it's adopted. But it does, in the view of my government, represent a clear step in the direction of making the safe areas safer than they are now," Sir David Hannay

told reporters late Thursday. In Sarajevo, U.N. envoy Thorvald Stoltenberg said Bosnian Serbs had failed to honour a deadline of noon Friday (1000 GMT) for letting U.N. military observers into Gorazde.

He said the agreement had been reached at a meeting he and European Community (EC) negotiator for the former Yugoslavia Lord Owen had Thursday with Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic in Pale, 15 kilometres southeast of Sarajevo.

"Not to allow U.N. military observers into the area is a very bad sign and does not give hope for future efforts to help the population in this area," Mr. Stoltenberg told reporters here.

Gorazde, 50 kilometres south-east of Sarajevo, is a U.N.-declared safe area from which the Serbs have blocked U.N. military and humanitarian officials while since May 28 they have pursued an offensive on the area.

Bosnian Serbs have also failed to honour a ceasefire Mr. Karadzic said he declared Thursday in Gorazde, according to Radio Sarajevo reports.

U.N. begins new Iraq mission

BAGHDAD (R) — A team of United Nations arms experts arrived in Baghdad Friday to monitor Iraq's ballistic missile potential and press for full compliance with Gulf war ceasefire terms.

"We're still missing important information concerning Iraq's past prohibited (weapons) programme," senior inspector Nikita Smidovitch told reporters.

Under the terms that ended the 1990 Gulf war over Kuwait, Iraq

is compelled to declare and destroy all its prohibited ballistic, biological, chemical and nuclear weapons along with the means to produce them.

For more than two years, U.N. teams have been scouring Iraq to check for banned weapons and activities. Mr. Smidovitch said Baghdad was still in non-compliance with the major Gulf war ceasefire resolution, number 687.

The United Nations, he said, needed "information on suppliers and the operational details concerning the use of this and that kind of weapon."

Earlier in Manama, Mr. Smidovitch said team would be concentrating this time on plants making liquid-fuel engines and on gyroscopes, devices which control the flights of missiles.



DEMOCRACY VIGIL: Despite heavy rain earlier in the day, some 10,000 people attend a candle light vigil in Hong Kong Friday to mark the fourth anniversary of the Chinese military crackdown on the 1989 pro-democracy movement in Beijing (Shanghai protests broken up, page 10)

Palestinians to seek Arab backing for their stands

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Palestinians are expected to press for broad Arab support for their efforts to realise American and Israeli pledges during a coordination meeting in Amman this week of the Arab parties involved in the 19-month-old peace negotiations with the Jewish state.

Barring last-minute developments, it is a foregone conclusion that the negotiations would resume in Washington on June 14, and the focus of the Sunday-Monday meeting in Amman is expected to be more on Arab strategy than on the date for the American-Russian-sponsored talks, informed sources said Friday.

Washington had suggested June 7 for the resumption of the talks, but the Palestinians sought and secured a one-week delay.

The Amman meeting, which will bring together foreign ministers Farouk Sharaa of Syria, Fariz Bouez of Lebanon, Farouk Kaddoumi of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and host Abdul Salam Majali of Jordan (who is also prime minister), is expected to hear Palestinian

appeals for stepped-up pressure on Washington to fulfill its pledges and twist Israel's arm into honouring the promises made prior to the ninth round of talks.

One of the main Palestinian demands is for an immediate end to a tight closure of the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip imposed by the Israeli occupation authorities in late March.

"How can the Palestinian delegates justify their presence on the peace negotiating table with Israel while their people are suffering under one of the severest sieges ever imposed by the occupation army?" said a Palestinian source.

In a way, the Israeli closure is seen by optimists as the forerunner of a total separation between the Jewish state and the occupied territories (except the Jewish settlements there). But the siege has brought about severe economic hardships for the Palestinians whose economy and wage-earnings have been closely linked with Israel since the Jewish state occupied the areas in 1967.

Furthermore, Arab East Jerusalem has been cut off from the rest of the occupied

territories, and opening the Holy City is of paramount political significance for the Palestinians.

Other Palestinian demands expected to be tabled in Amman this week include a clear timetable for the return of Palestinian expellees stranded in South Lebanon since December, release of Palestinian women and children prisoners from Israeli jails, and a total halt to Israel's policy of demolition of Palestinian homes.

The PLO, which sent a high-level delegation to Syria, Lebanon and Jordan two weeks ago, is expected to press the Arabs to support its quest for the restart of the suspended U.S.-PLO dialogue. But, the sources said, it was unlikely that the Arab parties, while sympathising with the PLO demand, would condition their return to the talks on the resumption of the dialogue.

The demands as well as issues of substance related to the core of the peace talks are also expected to be tabled by the Palestinians at a meeting with U.S. State Department officials prior to the resumption of the peace negotiations.

In the run-up to the Amman meeting, which will also be

Jordan expects Arab-Israeli peace agreements before end of this year

By Jane Arraf
Reuters

AMMAN — Jordan's new prime minister said Thursday he expected Israel and its Arab neighbours to come to terms at Middle East peace talks by the end of this year.

Abdul Salam Al Majali, asked if he thought Israel and Jordan would reach an agreement by the time his mandate expires in November, told Reuters in an interview: "I am optimistic. I feel that this will come not just for Jordan."

Dr. Majali, who has led Jordan's delegation to all nine rounds of peace talks, was appointed by King Hussein Saturday to head a new government until elections in November, the first multi-party elections in Jordan in three decades.

He also serves as foreign minister and defence minister in the temporary government, which has the task of pushing through economic reforms and showing that Jordan is committed to the peace process, which is opposed by most of Jordan's parliament.

He said the Arabs would not back out of the talks because they had made a firm commitment to keep negotiating.

"I think the Arabs have taken this decision quite clearly. I don't think they will go back on it," he said when asked whether the peace talks had enough momentum to keep the Arabs engaged.

He said that while some progress had been made in the last 18



Abdul Salam Majali

months, a breakthrough depended on Israel.

Dr. Majali said he believed that ordinary Jordanians would abandon hostile attitudes towards Israelis once peace was achieved.

"We have never been against Jews as Jews — on the contrary our religion (Islam) asks us to respect them, to respect Christians. Once politics are clear and we have peace certainly attitudes are going to change," he said.

On Sunday, Dr. Majali, a British-educated physician, will host a meeting of foreign ministers from key Arab states as well as the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). The ministers are expected to announce a decision to continue the talks in Washington in mid-June.

"I think in the last 18 months

Egyptian and Palestinian officials discuss peace talks

CAIRO (Agencies) — Senior officials of Egypt and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) met Friday to consider Washington's invitation to discuss a joint declaration of principles on Palestinian self-rule.

The talks included senior PLO official Mahmoud Abbas, Palestinian delegation leader Faisal Al Hussein and Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa.

Ossama Al Baz, President Hosni Mubarak's top political adviser, and Palestinian Ambassador to Cairo Saeed Kamal also attended.

No date has been set for a meeting in Washington between Palestinian and U.S. officials.

PLO officials said Palestinian negotiators submitted a five-page letter to Washington last week with 10 questions about the U.S. position on Palestinian interim self-government and the term of

reference of the peace process.

"We need American clarifications on their position regarding the peace process before the next round of peace talks starts," Mr. Hussein, overall leader of the Palestinian negotiating team, said in Amman Thursday.

"Without a doubt the American response to our questions will have an impact on our meetings with American officials in Washington and on the negotiations," he added.

Palestinians rejected a U.S.-drafted joint Palestinian-Israeli statement at the close of the ninth round of talks in Washington last month, saying it was biased towards Israel.

The Palestinian delegation was expected to travel to the United Arab Emirates Saturday in the highest-level Palestinian visit to the Gulf state since the 1991 war over Kuwait.

Iran says Saudis lifted siege of Mecca mission

NICOSIA (Agencies) — Iran said Friday Saudi riot police withdrew armoured vehicles surrounding the headquarters of its mission to the pilgrimage in Mecca at midnight on Thursday but kept the area under surveillance.

Iran says they began to besiege the building earlier on Thursday when they apparently expected an Iranian demonstration.

The official Iranian news agency IRNA said the siege was now over but the Saudi police continued watching the area using two closed circuit television cameras.

Tehran and Riyadh clashed over political activity during this year's pilgrimage, which culminated on Monday.

Police stopped Iranian pilgrims carrying out plans to hold an anti-American rally in Mecca on May 27. Iran denounced this as an irresponsible act carried out under U.S. pressure.

The Iranians organised a makeshift rally in their compound at Mina outside Mecca on Tuesday night and vowed they would hold "deliverance from infidels" ceremonies in Mecca during the Hajj in the future.

The confrontation raised tensions between the two regional powers, which are ruled by rival sects of Islam, just as relations seemed to be improving after a visit to Riyadh by Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati last month.

Saudi Arabia, which said its officials did not notice the Tuesday rally, condemned the earlier Iranian attempt as un-Islamic and illegal.

A Saudi official quoted by the Saudi Press Agency blamed the trouble on Iranian extremists who wanted to "blow up the efforts of the Iranian interests who are keen on Iranian interests and who always try to clear the air between Iran and its Arab neighbours."

Iranian officials follow late re-

volutionary leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini in saying that the Hajj, attended by about two million Muslims each year, would be incomplete if it is not used as a forum to air the political grievances of the Islamic World.

Ayatollah Khomeini, who died four years ago this week (see page 10), cursed King Fahd of Saudi Arabia in his will, holding him responsible for killing more than 400 people, mostly Iranians, in riots which erupted when Saudi police tried to halt an Iranian demonstration in Mecca in 1987.

Iranian President Hashemi Rafsanjani, meanwhile, accused some Arab rulers of massacring Islamic fundamentalists and warned that they would suffer the same fate as the late Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi.

Mr. Rafsanjani told visiting foreign dignitaries in Tehran that some Arab rulers, who he did not name, were killing their own people in the name of fighting Islamic fundamentalism.

"Those who are suppressing Muslim nations under the pretext of fundamentalism, massacring their peoples because of upholding the banner of Islam and accusing Muslims of having links with Iran, are mistaken... they are repeating the Shah's experience," he said, adding they would suffer the Shah's fate.

He did not name countries or rulers, but Egypt and Algeria both have been accusing Iran recently of fomenting unrest by fundamentalists.

Libya denies charge

Libya Thursday denied a Saudi claim it had sent nearly 200 armed men to Mecca in 1984 to "hunt out" Libyan dissidents taking part in the pilgrimage.

(Continued on page 3)



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Iraq-Kuwait border town lives life on the edge

By Jane Arraf
Reuter

UMM QASR, Iraq — Iraqis on the wrong side of the new border with Kuwait say it will take more than a concrete marker and a U.N. decision to drive them from their homes.

Children play in the dusty streets around pillar 105, the second-last marker on the 207-kilometre border redrawn by the United Nations after the 1991 Gulf war.

Civilians come and go at will within a demilitarised zone spanning the border. Some youngsters attend school in Iraq but live in what the U.N. says is Kuwait.

The Security Council declared in late May that the border demarcation was final. At the southern edge of Umm Qasr town, Iraqi government buildings have been levelled by the U.N.

But solid brick homes with large gardens testify to the middle class life provided by the nearby port before Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, and show Baghdad's determination to hold its ground despite its Gulf war defeat.

Twenty of the 63 families of town were moved there after the war ended Iraq's occupation of the emirate.

"As we understand it this is Iraq and it is going to stay Iraq. There is not a single Kuwaiti for miles," said Mayor Mohammad Abdullah Al Liwal, installed by Baghdad after the war.

"We are not leaving our homes. Where would we go?" asks Zainab Abbas, a 22-year-old mother of five.

Importantly for Baghdad, the new line gives Kuwait most of an Iraqi naval base and part of an oil field.

Iraqis were never happy about the British-fostered de-

velopment of Kuwait as a separate territory after World War I.

Although Baghdad gave diplomatic recognition to the emirate's government in 1963 it did not follow through with a formal agreement to mark the border.

The U.N. boundary commission set up after the 1991 Gulf war says it was not drawing a new line — just clarifying that the old frontier really lay a short distance northeast of the informal border used over the years.

The demilitarised zone is patrolled by the United Nations, which bars Kuwait from setting up its border posts closer than one kilometre from the U.N.-defined frontier.

The nearest Kuwaiti town is 120 kilometres away and many Iraqis here speak as though the Gulf war never happened.

"Kuwait is part of Iraq. Nothing can change that," said Mr. Abbas, reciting the lesson every Iraqi child learns in school. "This is all our country."

"Kuwait will always be an Iraqi province," said a young soldier at home when asked about statements by Iraqi officials earlier this year that Kuwait was "a closed chapter."

"We have the will and we have the men — we will get it back," said the soldier, Abdul Mohsan Gaetan Hassan, ridiculing Kuwait's plans to build a huge trench and lay over one million mines along the frontier.

Like other servicemen, Hassan has been partly cushioned from U.N. trade sanctions and post-war inflation by pay rises.

His salary now gives him 850 dinars a month.

That is only about \$15 at current black market rates.

But it is about four times the pay of the civilians at the port, which is idle because of U.N. trade sanctions but still has 90 per cent of the town's workforce on its payroll.

Iraq's 1980-1988 war with Iran left the Shatt Al Arab waterway at its southeastern border blocked with sunken ships, making Umm Qasr the only outlet to the Gulf.

The U.N. border commission says the boundary ensures both countries access to the Gulf through the Khor Abdullah waterway.

At the naval base, the rubble of buildings and salvaged boats shows Iraqi property destroyed by the United Nations after Baghdad was allowed to take out what it could.

A clash over Iraq's removal of police posts across the demarcation line in January helped spark U.S.-led air strikes against Baghdad. The problem still simmers.

Iraq has denounced the U.N. commission's ruling, saying it ignored history to give Iraqi territory to Kuwait and repeating claims that the oil-rich emirate was historically "sliced off" from Iraq by European powers.

"Some Iraqis have been tortured when they went to retrieve cables...our farmers near the border have been shot at," said Major Wasfi Aoda, an Iraqi liaison officer with the U.N. Iraq-Kuwait Observer Mission monitoring the demilitarised zone.

U.N. military observers say Iraqis and Kuwaitis have exchanged sporadic fire several times a month from the border posts.

Kuwait says it is expecting the U.N. to boost its force along the border soon with additional troops from Greece, Argentina and Bangladesh.



ANTI-PULLOUT PROTESTS: Demonstrators with graduation hats call on Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin to resign as he was receiving a honorary degree from an Israeli university Thursday. The demonstrators oppose Israeli withdrawal from Syria's Golan Heights. Israel's leading religious authorities declared Thursday that the Golan is an integral part of the Jewish state. The chief rabbinate issued a communique saying: "The Golan is inseparable from Israel where religious precepts linked to the land apply and whose inhabitants obey the commandment to people greater Israel." The communique signed by chief rabbis Israel Lau and Eliahu Bakshi Doron followed a meeting with a delegation of rabbis from the Golan.

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U.N. panel assails Iran over rights of women

GENEVA (AP) — The U.N. Committee on Economic, Cultural and Social Rights has taken Iran to task for its treatment of women and for failing to lift the death threat against author Salman Rushdie.

A U.N. statement Thursday said that Iran was one of six countries considered during a two-week closed-door meeting to review compliance with the 1976 U.N. convention on economic, social and cultural rights.

The text of the committee's concluding remarks, made available by U.N. officials, were particularly critical of Iran.

"The committee expresses its particular concern with respect to the non-performance by the government of Iran of its obligation...to ensure the equality of men and women," the 18-member panel said.

It said Iran's constitution placed unacceptable conditions, with phrases like "provided it is not against Islam," on the country's respect for human rights.

"It is apparent that the authorities in Iran are using the religion as a pretext in order to abuse these rights," it said.

The committee found that the Iranian government's report on the situation of women in Iran was "essentially legalistic" and that concerns about the treatment of non-Muslim minorities "have not been satisfactorily answered."

Philip Alston of Australia, chairman of the panel, told reporters earlier that "in diplomatic language" the committee's discussion with Iran was "a robust exchange."

The committee said women in Iran were forbidden to study engineering, agriculture, mining, metallurgy and "a very large number of specific subjects at university level."

They also are barred from becoming magistrates and need their husbands' permission to work or travel abroad, it said.

Iran's practices are "incompatible with the obligations undertaken by Iran under the covenant," the committee said.

"The obligation to ensure equal opportunity for women warrants particular attention, especially in relation to the right to work, family-related rights and the right to education," it said.

Amnesty says women targeted and tortured in Tunisia crackdown

PARIS (AP) — Hundreds of women have been arbitrarily arrested in Tunisia over the past two years and scores of them tortured, sexually abused or threatened, Amnesty International said Thursday.

A report by the London-based human rights organisation charged that some women were "detained as hostages" to pressure male relatives wanted for their ties to banned organisations to give themselves up.

Tunisia's Foreign Ministry rejected the report as "calumnious, prejudiced, partial and tendentious," and said it brought discredit on the human rights group.

Amnesty called on the Tunisian government to recognise that torture and ill-treatment — documented in two 1992 reports — remain a "serious problem," to thoroughly investigate it, punish those responsible and ensure that such practices end.

According to the 14-page report, security officials over the past two years have targeted mainly wives and relatives of supporters of the banned Muslim fundamentalist movement, Al Nahda, and the banned Tunisian Workers' Communist Party.

I said such abuse reveals a "pattern of human rights violations against women which has become increasingly widespread over the past two years and which is part of a wider circle of repression of political opponents..."

Tunisian authorities have been engaged in a crackdown on the Al Nahda movement since 1990, convicting hundreds of supporters in two trials last year.

According to Amnesty, at least 8,000 people were thought to have been arrested at the height of the crackdown in 1991.

Women became increasingly vulnerable to abuse as the crackdown intensified, the report said, and men went into hiding or fled. Security forces then focused on female relatives to extract information on the men's whereabouts or pressure them to turn themselves in, the report charged.

Harassment includes night visits to relatives' homes, illegal searches and summons to police stations, with some women detained for more than the maximum 10 days, according to Amnesty.

Tunisia rejects charge

The Tunisian government bitterly criticised such "false testimony" of women "belonging to the terrorist movement Al Nahda and the leftist group post, both illegal."

The Foreign Ministry described the report as "calumnious in its allegations, systematic in its prejudices, partial and tendentious in its positions, reproducing without discernment tracts diffused by extremist groups which preach violence..."

It condemned the Amnesty report, saying it "puts seriously into question the credibility of this organisation."

The statement noted Tunisia's efforts on behalf of women, which include a personal code that frees Tunisia's women from many of the strictures customary in the Arab World.

NEWS IN BRIEF

U.S. armed forces radio, TV in Somalia

MOGADISHU (AP) — Six months after arriving in this desert wasteland, where the best entertainment is watching camels trot down main street, U.S. soldiers will begin receiving armed forces radio and television. U.S. Air Force Major Ron Pacello announced Thursday that one television station and two radio stations should begin operating by the beginning of July off satellite feeds from the Armed Forces network in Frankfurt, Germany. The feeds from the Armed Forces network in Frankfurt, Germany, plus 100 military is shipping in 1,000 radios and 100 television sets, plus 100 sets of rabbit ears — none of which can be found here. The bad news is the listening range will be 30 kilometres at the most, so soldiers outside Mogadishu will miss out. The good news: Armed Forces network has no commercials.

Dead Sea scroll publisher appeals damages

TEL AVIV (AP) — A U.S. academic has lodged an appeal with Israel's supreme court against conviction for violating copyright on a key manuscript of the Dead Sea scrolls. Hershel Shanks, editor of the U.S. Biblical Archaeology Review, printed a pirated version of a scroll reconstructed painstakingly by an Israeli professor and was ordered to pay \$36,000 damages as well as costs. Professor Eliahu Qimron of Beersheba University spent 11 years deciphering 70 fragments of the ancient texts unearthed at Qumran by the Dead Sea. "The court erred in ignoring the distinction between a creative and original process that is not protected by copyright law and a creative and original text," Mr. Shanks claims in his appeal. The case centres on the rights of a scholar to exclusivity and has drawn widespread interest in the academic world. For Mr. Shanks, scholars working on the scrolls took too long and deprived the public of the right to know. Prof. Qimron was assigned the work as part of an international team studying the prized texts from the ascetic Jewish sect which some believe provide clues to the birth of Christianity. No date has been set for the appeal.

Marines to take part in Kuwait exercises

WASHINGTON (AP) — About 4,200 U.S. Marines will participate in joint manoeuvres with British and Kuwaiti forces next week in Kuwait and the Gulf, the Pentagon said Thursday. Code-named Eager Mace, the exercise, scheduled for June 7 to 15, is designed to "demonstrate U.S. amphibious capabilities and the continuing U.S. commitment to the security and stability of the Persian Gulf region," said a Pentagon statement. The participating U.S. Marine units include elements of Amphibious Squadron Two and the 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit. Marines will also provide an amphibious cargo ship and a tank landing ship. U.S. forces have carried out regular military exercises in Kuwait and the Gulf under the terms of a defence cooperation agreement signed by the United States and Kuwait after the 1991 Gulf war.

Rebels defect to army in south Sudan

KHARTOUM (AP) — Fourteen rebel soldiers, including four officers, have defected to the Sudanese armed forces in the western Nuer zone of Upper Nile state in south Sudan, the official media reported Thursday. The defectors included a lieutenant-colonel and three first lieutenants, according to the army general command, which said they were well received by government troops when they came over on March 25. The military did not say whether the rebels came from Colonel John Garang's Dinka-dominated mainstream faction of the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) or Rick Machar's dissident wing, which is mainly Nuer. The army general command attributed continuing defections of rebel officers to low morale, the distances of supply lines and acute food shortages in their ranks. It also declared that the defectors were convinced of the need for peace in Sudan, where the SPLA has been fighting for a decade to end domination of the mainly animist and Christian south by the Arabic-speaking north. Peace talks between Colonel Garang's SPLA mainstream and the Khartoum military junta broke down last month because of disagreement on imposing strict Islamic law or making Sudan a secular state.

Britain offers to help Lebanon rebuild

BEIRUT (AP) — Britain is ready to help Lebanon rebuild from the ruins left by 15 years of war, British Housing Minister Sir George Young said here Thursday. "We will be working hard to win business for Britain and looking for opportunities to assist Beirut and Lebanon in its programme of reconstruction and development," he said. Mr. Young, heading the first British delegation to Lebanon in years, was attending a seminar on reconstruction chaired by British Ambassador to Lebanon Geraldine Fort. Also attending were Lebanese cabinet members and the head of the Reconstruction and Development Council, Fadi Shalan. Mr. Young and his 15-member delegation of businessmen representing large British construction firms arrived in Beirut Wednesday.

Netanyahu blackmail complaint probe dropped

TEL AVIV (AP) — Prosecutors have dropped a probe into allegations of political blackmail and wiretapping of Likud Party leader Benjamin Netanyahu's telephone, for lack of evidence, officials said Thursday. The probe kicked off a feud which still threatens to split the right-wing party and hurt its chances of defeating Labour Party Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin in the next Israeli elections. Mr. Netanyahu, also a former U.N. ambassador, complained of eavesdropping in January, saying a threatening telephone call was made to his wife about an extramarital affair, which he admitted to being involved in. He accused political rivals of trying to blackmail him into dropping his candidacy for the right-wing party's number one spot, which he ended up winning anyway in a March primary. A justice ministry statement said police came up with insufficient evidence to press charges, but maintained there had been sufficient grounds to open an investigation. It said some signs of tampering with Mr. Netanyahu's office telephone were found but not the phone caller to Mrs. Netanyahu. "There was no evidence found to provide grounds to suspect any person or other factor" of the complaints made, it said. Israeli media reported that Mr. Netanyahu had suspected supporters of his main rival in the race, former Foreign Minister David Levy, of the eavesdropping. Mr. Netanyahu denied this Thursday. Mr. Levy, still angry, accused Mr. Netanyahu on state television of "audacity." He also urged Mr. Netanyahu to "draw conclusions," which in Hebrew parlance generally means a call for someone to resign.

Germany to boost force in Somalia; agreement reached on Kismayu truce

BONN (Agencies) — Germany will boost to some 1,700 the number of soldiers it plans to send into war and famine-torn Somalia as part of a United Nations humanitarian mission there, according to Defence Minister Volker Ruehe.

Bonn initially planned to send some 1,600 peacekeepers to the Horn of Africa country as part of a planned 30,000-strong U.N. contingent to enforce security in a country ruined by drought and clan warfare.

Some 150 German troops will leave for Somalia next week, Mr. Ruehe told a news conference Thursday.

"Our soldiers are Germany's envoys, Somalia's people need them," Mr. Ruehe said, adding that all troops and equipment, including 46 armoured cars, would be in Somalia by mid-August.

Germany already has some 150 soldiers based in Belet Huen, a relatively peaceful town in central Somalia, as part of a mission which is testing Germany's constitutional limitation on military activity.

Bonn wants to expand the role of its military, limited to defence since World War II, by sending soldiers to join international peacekeeping forces and eventually combat missions with U.N. allies.

But the opposition Social Democrats (SPD) are challenging the move in the sup-



Mohammed Farah Aided

reme court, arguing the constitution must be changed. "It is clear that we are dealing with a mission which our constitution does not provide for," Rudolf Dressler, the SPD's spokesman on social affairs, told German television.

Agreement on Kismayu

Clan elders in Somalia's main hot spot agreed Thursday on a truce in the hostilities that have hindered international peacekeeping efforts in the country.

U.N. special envoy Admiral Jonathan Howe agreed that a lot of work remains to resolve the simmering animosities in Kismayu. The southern port city's problems have proved resistant to the military relief

effort taken over by the United Nations from the United States a month ago.

"We recognise this is the beginning of a journey, not the end," he said.

After four days of talks at a Mogadishu hotel, about 60 elders of the two primary factions in the lower Juba region that includes Kismayu issued a "declaration of peace and reconciliation."

The ambitious document sets an agenda for peace talks. It calls for an end to hostilities in the Lower Juba and reunification of the residents within seven days.

Signatories included Mohammad Said Hersi — known as Morgan — who is the son-in-law of former dictator Mohammed Siad Barre and his rival Mohammed Omar Jess.

"I would like to congratulate all of those who worked so hard to bring together this historic document," Adm. Howe said at a ceremony attended by the signatories.

Colonel Jess is an ally of Mogadishu warlord Mohammed Farah Aided, who has accused the U.N. of allowing "Morgan" to operate with impunity to return Mr. Siad Barre to power. The U.N. denies this.

Gen. Aided is the single most powerful warlord in the country and hopes to take control of a federal-style parliament set up under U.N. peace accords later this year.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 77111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

18:30 Les Aventures de l'Espace
19:00 Geopolis
19:15 News in French
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Super Bloppers
21:00 Not Another Science Show
21:30 Music
22:00 News in English
22:30 Feature Film

PRAYER TIMES

05:55 Fajr
06:57 Sunrise
12:33 Dhuhr
16:13 Asr
17:37 Maghrib
18:13 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church, Swellish, Tel. 610740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 65274
St. Joseph Church, Tel. 624900
Church of the Annunciation, Tel. 637434
De la Sa Church, Tel. 661757
Terresanta Church, Tel. 622366
Church of the Annunciation, Tel. 623551

Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 628543
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751
Armenian International Church Tel. 625226
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 624328
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 823824, 659332
Church of Nazareth Tel. 675091

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

A slight rise in temperatures will take place and some clouds will appear at various altitudes. Winds will be northwesterly light to moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly fresh and seas wavy.

Min./Max. temp.
Amman 18 / 32
Aqaba 25 / 39
Deserts 15 / 40
Jordan Valley 19 / 37

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 32, Aqaba 38. Humidity readings: Amman 42 per cent, Aqaba 20 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Youssef Nasser 751144
Dr. Riaz Abu Zaid 894295
Dr. Mohammad Al Azzeh 752971
Dr. Khalid Mu'addi 743300
Fire pharmacy 661912
Ferdows pharmacy 778336
Al Azma pharmacy 637055
Nawabli pharmacy 623672
Al Salam pharmacy 626730
Yacoub pharmacy 648995
Shamouni pharmacy 627660
Najab pharmacy 847632

IRBID:
Dr. Ali Al-Sagheer (-)
Al Quds Pharmacy (-)

ZARQA:
Dr. Zaid Ju'aitan (-)
Khalifa pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate 630041
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 891228

Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 896790
Public Security Department 630231
Akilch Maternity, J. Amn. 643416
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Malhas, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shamsiati 6641714
Shamsiati Hospital 669131
University Hospital 845843
Al-Musaher Hospital 6672779
The Islamic, Abdali 6661237
Al-Ahli, Abdali 771013
Italian, Al-Muhajirin 661646
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 7751126
Army, Marka 8916115
Queen Alia Hospital 6024050

Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 690100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815613
Electric Power Company 636381
RJ Flight Information 06-53200
Queen Alia Intl. Airport 06-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 81381322
Khaldi Maternity, J. Amn. 6432816
Akilch Maternity, J. Amn. 643416
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Malhas, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shamsiati 6641714
Shamsiati Hospital 669131
University Hospital 845843
Al-Musaher Hospital 6672779
The Islamic, Abdali 6661237
Al-Ahli, Abdali 771013
Italian, Al-Muhajirin 661646
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 7751126
Army, Marka 8916115
Queen Alia Hospital 6024050

Amal Hospital 674155
ZARQA:
Zarqa Gov. Hospital 09798323
Zarqa National Hospital 09798540
Ibn Sina Hospital 09798632
Al Hikma Modern Hospital 0919090
IRBID:
Princess Basma Hospital 02725555
Greek Catholic Hospital 02727275
Ibn Al-Nafies Hospital 021247100
AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital 03134111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)53200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

06:00 Jakarta, Singapore (RJ)
09:45 New Delhi (RJ)
10:15 Cairo, Aqaba (RJ)
10:45 Dhahran (RJ)
10:30 Karachi, Dubai (RJ)
11:00 Colombo (RJ)
11:15 Beirut (RJ)
11:45 Cam (RJ)
12:30 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
19:25 Frankfurt, Vienna (RJ)
19:30 London, Berlin (RJ)
19:35 Bangkok (RJ)
02:45 Madrid (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

11:30 Sanaa (IY)
19:25 Rome, Beirut (AZ)
20:00 Dubai, Damascus (EM)
21:25 Larnaca (RJ)
21:45 Paris, Damascus (AF)

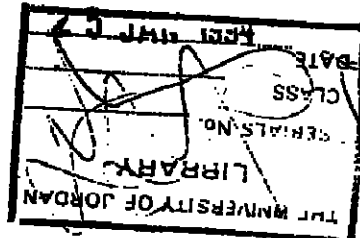
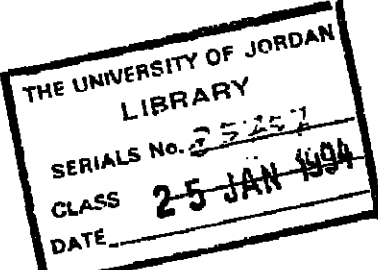
DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

07:15 Beirut (RJ)
12:30 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
12:45 Paris, Madrid (RJ)
12:50 Geneva, Brussels (RJ)
13:45 Cairo (RJ)
13:55 London (RJ)
21:30 Jeddah (RJ)

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in fils per kg.
Apple 700 / 700
Banana 680 / 680
Banana (Mukammal) 620 / 620
Beans 380 / 400
Cabbage 50 / 100
Carrot 150 / 90
Cauliflower 250 / 180
Cucumbers (large) 120 / 80
Cucumbers (small) 240 / 180
Eggplant 300 / 180
Garlic 260 / 200
Grapefruit 240 / 180
Lemon 580 / 500
Marrow (large) 90 / 50
Marrow (small) 150 / 100
Mint 80
Onion (dry) 230 / 160
Onion (green) 280 / 180
Orange 600 / 250
Pepper (hot) 450 / 350
Pepper (sweet) 200 / 150
Potato 120 / 180
Tomato 40 / 80



SPREADING CHEER: Her Majesty Queen Noor spends the Eid Al Adha feast with the orphans at the SOS Children's Villages in Amman and Aqaba. Accompanied by her children Princes Hamzeh and Hashem and Princesses Elman and Raya, the Queen chatted with the children and distributed gifts to them for the Eid. Officials at the two villages expressed appreciation for the Queen Noor's customary visits and her continued care for the children.

Pilgrims return home

AMMAN (J.T.) — Muslims from Palestinian lands occupied since 1948 who were on pilgrimage in Mecca will start arriving in Amman Saturday, and the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs has arranged to receive them at Marj Al Hamam near Amman, according to the ministry sources.

The sources said Jordanian citizens wishing to temporarily host the pilgrims should call Saturday at the gathering point at Marj Al Hamam for arrangements with police authorities.

Just before the end of the pilgrimage, the head of the Jordanian pilgrimage mission and advisor to His Majesty King Hussein on Islamic Affairs Sheikh Izzeddin Al Khatib Al Tamimi called Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali to assure him that all Jordanian pilgrims were in good health and have embarked on their return trip to Jordan.

Special arrangements are also being made at the King Hussein Bridge in the Jordan Valley to facilitate the return of pilgrims from the Israeli-occupied territories to their homes, following their brief stay in the Kingdom.

The Public Security Department said the pilgrims will be gathered at the Pilgrims City at Ghor Nimrein Saturday and Sunday before crossing to the occupied territories.



His Majesty King Hussein attends prayers at Al Hashemeh Mosque on the occasion of Eid Al Adha. King Hussein is accompanied by Their Royal Highnesses Princes Abdullah, Faisal, Hamzeh and

Hashem. Also in attendance were Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali, Speaker of the Senate Ahmad Al Lawzi and Lower House Speaker Abdul Latif Arabiyat (Petra photo)



His Majesty King Hussein receives leading officials of the Intelligence Department, the Public Security Department, the Army and Civil Defence Department on the occasion of the Eid Al Adha.

Jordan ends Eid Al Adha holidays

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordanian life returns to "business as usual" Saturday following a five-day holiday observed by public and private sectors on the Eid Al Adha, which marked the end of this year's pilgrimage to Mecca.

On the first day of the Feast of Sacrifice, His Majesty King Hussein attended prayers at Al

Hashemeh Mosque with other worshippers including Royal family members, Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali, senior government officials and high-ranking army officers.

Following the prayers, His Majesty visited the tombs of Kings Abdullah Ibn Al Hussein and Talal Ibn Abdullah where he recited verses of the Holy Koran and laid memorial wreaths. King Hussein also vi-

sited the tomb of the late Queen Alia.

Later His Majesty attended a reception at Raghadan Palace where he greeted well-wishers who included prominent individuals, ministers, Parliament members, heads of diplomatic missions, religious leaders and many other citizens.

During the holiday, at least 16 deaths and 100 injuries were reported in the Kingdom, re-

sulting from incidents at home, fires, road accidents and food poisonings.

Local newspapers reported the occurrence of at least 8,640 incidents and accidents in the last five days noting that they occurred in different governorates.

The reports indicated that some of victims are still being treated at hospitals including Al Bashir Hospital in Amman which reported the treatment

of 3,538 injuries, one third of which were children.

Local newspapers also reported that one of the fires occurred at a petrol station in Zarqa when a lit cigarette was thrown by a worker while oil products were being pumped into the station's depots.

The report said that the Civil Defence fire engines were called to extinguish the fire which caused material damage but no casualties.

Businesses look for speedy economic reform

By Suleiman Al Khalidi Reuters

AMMAN — Jordan's new government has pledged to speed the pace of economic reform and raised hopes that the private sector will play a wider role in the economy.

"Our first priority will be to intensify efforts the previous government began in reactivating the economy," newly-appointed Finance Minister Sami Qammo told Reuters.

Business leaders are pressing the government to offer them shares in successful state enterprises, a move which may mean a loss of jobs, and cut bureaucracy which they say is a disincentive to investment and exports.

Despite past commitments to allocate a larger role to the private sector, a programme to privatise major sectors including telecommunications, the state refinery, cement industry and port facilities is mostly still at the planning stage.

The transitional government named by His Majesty King Hussein on May 29 will supervise Jordan's November parliamentary elections, the first multi-party vote in more than three decades. Almost half of the ministers who resigned plan to run in the elections.

"This government has no justification now not to take economic measures that may be unpopular and painful, but necessary... it need not be constrained as its predecessor by electoral factors," said Hamdi Al Tabaa, prominent businessman and a former minis-

ter of Trade and Industry. Business officials said the new government's strong mandate should help it enact laws speeding up privatisation measures.

Others said the new government could also help implement laws already passed or in the pipeline such as those setting up duty-free zones or reducing taxation.

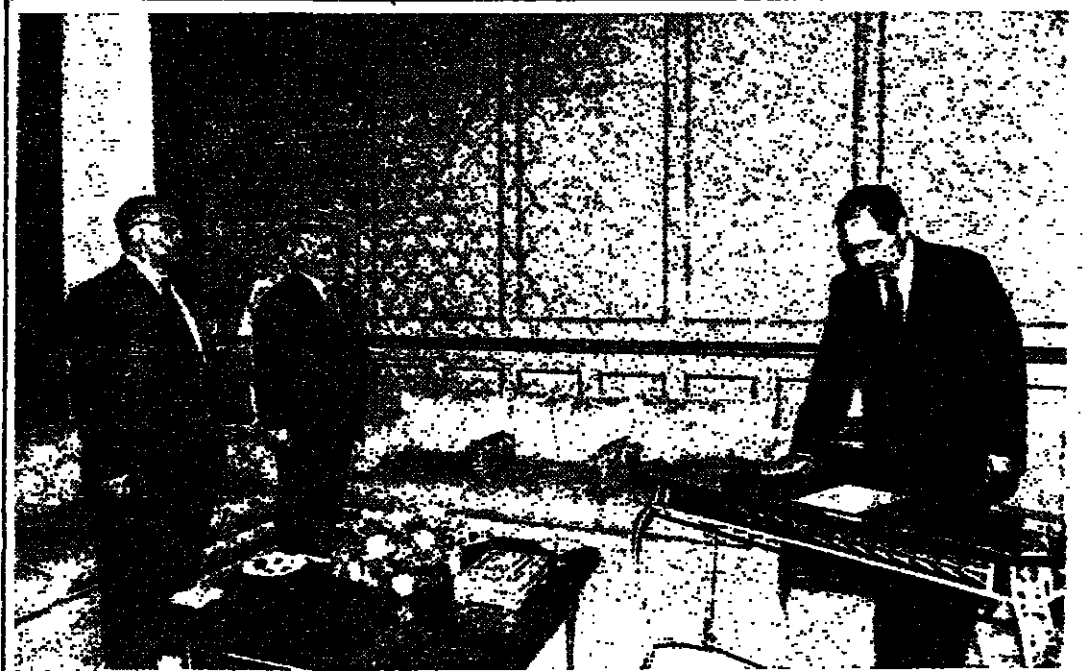
"If only the present laws that give the private sector a bigger role are put into action... it will create a better investment environment," said Hani Nasser, a major contractor.

The private sector, estimated to have about \$10 billion in liquid assets, is still on the sidelines awaiting concrete steps to reduce red tape before investing large sums.



RECEIVING WELL-WISHERS: Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali on the first day of Eid Al Adha receives former Prime Minister Ahmad Obeidat. Dr. Majali and his Cabinet received

well-wishers at the Prime Ministry following the formation of Jordan's new government which coincided with the beginning of the Feast of Sacrifice holidays (Petra photo)



OATH-TAKING: Minister of State for Prime Foreign Affairs Talal Sataat Al Hassan Thursday took the oath of office before His Majesty King Hussein. Present at the oath-taking ceremony were Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali, former prime minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker and Royal Court Chief Khalid Al Karaki (Petra photo)

Vocational corporation plans to train 73,000 citizens during 5-year plan

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Vocational Training Corporation (VTC) plans to provide training in different trades to 73,000 citizens during the 1993-1997 Five-Year Plan, according to Ahmad Atwan, VTC director general.

The training will take place at 37 vocational training centres in various governorates, said Dr. Atwan at a ceremony for the graduation of a new group of 1,000 trainees last week.

Under the five-year-plan, said Dr. Atwan, the VTC will set up new training centres that will take in women trainees and also will give priority to training in

technology-related fields.

Setting up of new centres or expanding existing ones will take place at Aqaba where a hotel training institute will be established and also at Yajouz, Ain Basha, Qweismeh, Manara and Irbid, said Dr. Atwan.

He said a modern training centre that will cost JD5 million is being set up at Zarqa to train young men in construction work.

Since its establishment in 1977, the VTC has been able to organise training courses extending from three months to two years to 76,000 citizens in cooperation with 3,400 private businesses which offered practical training

for VTC trainees.

Most of the trainees in the past few years, said Dr. Atwan, included community college and school graduates who have been searching for work.

Dr. Atwan noted that the VTC has been particularly cooperating with the Sahab Industrial City near Amman and the Al Hassan Industrial City in Irbid.

Both these cities have numerous types of factories where the trainees have earned practical experience, said Dr. Atwan.

He said that the VTC aims at providing Jordan with much-needed skilled workers who are currently seeking employment.

Iran says Saudis lifted siege

(Continued from page 1)

"Apart from their slander, Saudi authorities are inventing lies to harm the Libyan people and leader Muammar Qadhafi who has devoted all his efforts to Islam," the official JANA news agency said.

The charges are "baseless," it added.

Saudi Television on Wednesday showed a film said to have been taken in 1984 in which Saudi security men were seen seizing weapons in the luggage of Libyans arriving at the airport for the pilgrimage.

It said the Libyans concerned said they had been sent to "hunt out stray dogs" — Tripoli's term for dissident Libyans.

One man shown identified himself as Mustafa Salem and said he and the others had come to "eliminate the enemies of Islam and the stray dogs" among Libyan pilgrims.

A Saudi Television commentator said the number of Libyans carrying arms when they landed in Saudi Arabia was "close to 200."

Pilgrimage to Jerusalem

Libyan pilgrims who made an unprecedented trip to Jerusalem also accused Saudi Arabia of taking cheap shots at Col. Qadhafi.

"The Saudi authorities unfortunately exploited this case to

cover up on its crime of preventing Libyans from going to the pilgrimage in Mecca," Daw Tajouri, a spokesman for the Libyans, told a news conference in Cairo on Thursday.

"If they want to defame the name of the leader (Qadhafi) and the name of the Libyan republic this is cheap exploitation."

The nearly 200 Libyan pilgrims, who arrived in Jerusalem on Monday, could not fly directly from Tripoli to the Haj in Mecca because Saudi Arabia honoured U.N. sanctions imposed on Libya.

Instead, they travelled through Egypt, Israel and the occupied West Bank to Jerusalem, where their presence angered Palestinians and other Arabs, and their comments on wresting the Holy City from Israeli control infuriated Israelis.

Their trip to Jerusalem raised speculation Libya hoped to ease the sanctions, but the pilgrims insisted their visit to holy sites in the city was not political.

The group, which includes some government employees, arrived in Cairo on Wednesday night after cutting short their Jerusalem visit by one day. They were expected to leave for Libya soon.

Libya, trying to calm Arab fears, had denied the trip was an overture to the Jewish state.

Libyan-based diplomats said the trip was criticised inside Tripoli, despite an official media campaign presenting it as a spon-

taneous initiative by pilgrims who could not fly from Libya to the pilgrimage to Mecca.

"We have visited Jerusalem because it is an Arab and Islamic capital. It is the capital of the Palestinian state which was recognised by some 80 countries. Our visit does not mean that we have recognised Israel or have links with Israel," Mr. Tajouri said.

"We are dignified and free people. We don't take permission from New York or from (Palestinian leader) Faisal Al Hussein to pray in (Jerusalem's) Al Aqsa Mosque," Mr. Tajouri said.

"Since the Saudi authorities have failed to liberate its holy lands from Western forces (after the 1991 Gulf war), there is no difference between occupied Jerusalem and occupied Mecca," he added.

Cambodia election observers return

AMMAN (J.T.) — A 10-member Jordanian delegation which served as part of the United Nations team in supervising the general elections in Cambodia returned to Amman Thursday evening, after what they expressed was a difficult mission.

The head of the team, Abdul Qader Hababeh, said in a statement to the Jordan News Agency (Petra) Friday that their mission was rather difficult because they were assigned a part of Cambodia which was under the control of the Khmer Rouge opposition group.

During the six days of voting, he said, the Jordanian team was operating within the framework of a programme set by the United Nations and closely cooperating with the U.N. headquarters in Phnom Penh.

OBITUARY

East-West Establishment mourns with deep regret and sorrow the late pharmacist

George Iskandar Hazboun

who passed away in Canada Saturday, 29 May 1993 and was buried there. May his soul rest in peace.

For condolences, please contact:

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Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation, Est. 1975
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Serving notice

THE MEETING in Amman tomorrow of the Arab foreign ministers to the Middle East peace talks may not be different from the previous one held on the eve of the ninth round of the bilateral talks. The agenda will most probably focus on the obstacles that hindered progress during the last round, on progress, or the lack of it, achieved in the last two weeks and on ways and means that might help the Arab negotiating stand. While more and more people are sceptical that the 10th round would be dramatically different from the ninth, it is hard to see any future for the talks altogether unless there is a change of heart on the part of Israel. The Israeli government under Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin still holds the key for any breakthrough for the entire peace process.

On the Palestinian-Israeli level, the bottom line is whether Rabin accepts the full application of U.N. Security Council resolutions calling for peace in return for the restoration of Palestinian lands and Palestinian national rights. The kind of settlements that Israel has already constructed on Palestinian soil suggests, however, that Israel's rhetorical acceptance of Security Council Resolution 242 is nothing more than a negotiating gimmick aiming to convince the world of its sincerity in the quest for peace treaties with its Arab neighbours. The exclusion by Israel of East Jerusalem from the purview of the Palestinian-Israeli talks also reinforces the suspicion that in fact Israel is not prepared to withdraw from the Palestinian territories. All past efforts to register progress in the Palestinian-Israeli track have failed simply because Israel has yet to commit itself to an operational application of Resolution 242.

There is no chance that the other negotiating tracks can attain any progress in the absence of real progress on the Palestinian-Israeli track. That is why Rabin is constantly striving to reverse the order of the negotiating process by putting the other Israeli-Arab bilateral peace talks ahead of the Palestinian-Israeli track. This much the Amman meeting Sunday can correct by emphasising the necessity of achieving a breakthrough on the Palestinian case over the other Arab-Israeli conflicts. The Arab foreign ministers can make a point of this issue during their deliberations Sunday and then serve Israel and the two co-sponsors of the bilateral peace talks with notice that that is how the Arab parties regard the peace process. The sooner Rabin becomes convinced that no progress whatsoever can be attained on the other fronts unless he comes out more clearly on the Palestinian question the better it will be for all parties concerned. The frustration felt by Palestinians and Arabs alike at the lack of progress and the Israeli right's determination to sabotage the peace process both now threaten to kill it altogether. Time is certainly against peace unless it is used quickly to attain some results. That much must be made loud and clear for both Israel and the U.S. to hear and appreciate.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RAY Arabic daily Friday recalled the June 5 anniversary noting that it marks the lapse of 26 years since the 1967 occupation of West Bank and Gaza Strip. The paper said the Arabs should draw useful lessons from this sad anniversary and act in a more objective manner to regain their rights. The Arabs should not give way to despair as a result of this set-back or in view of the current situation in the Arab World, said the paper. It is true that the differences and divisions among Arab states are as deep as ever and it is true that Arab rights are still usurped as Israel continues to ignore U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, the exchange of land for peace and as a result of the negative U.S. attitude towards the peace process, said the paper. But, it said, it should be noted that the intifada is still going on despite the escalation of Israeli terrorist and criminal actions and this calls for renewed hope that the Arabs will eventually regain their lost land and rights. What is needed now, the paper said, is diligent and concerted action on the part of the Arabs towards ending their differences and working for the sake of opening new avenues of cooperation and collective action. The paper said that the June 5 anniversary should give the Arab reason for hope rather than despair.

A COLUMNIST in Al Dustour daily commented on a visit by Libyan Muslims to the holy places in occupied Jerusalem by charging that the Libyan leader has taken this step not for the sake of ending the current siege imposed by Israel on the Palestinian people of the West Bank and Gaza Strip but rather in a bid to mend fences with the Western countries in general and the United States in particular. Salah Qallab said that the visit can also be interpreted as a sign, on the part of Libya, to normalise relations with Israel in a flagrant defiance of Arab feelings and breach of the pan-Arab consensus on maintaining the boycott on Israel. The breach, said the writer, came from an Arab country calling itself revolutionary and progressive and which has all along spearheaded efforts to a strongly resist normalising relations with Israel as long as it continues to occupy Arab lands. Following the occupation of Palestinian lands in 1967, the Arabs decided that they should impose total boycott on Israel, banning even pilgrims from going to the holy city. Indeed, the Copts of Egypt are still committed to this decision and have not sent a single Christian pilgrim to the Christian holy places in Jerusalem, said the writer. He said that although the Libyan people continue to suffer from the results of the sanction on their country, this suffering should not be addressed through giving concessions to the Israeli enemy during a holy day for the Muslim Nation.

LEFT IN A LIMBO?

Kurds need West's aid, protection

By Michael Ignatieff

KURDISTAN — "Allo Mistair!" the shoeshine boys cry when you pass them in the dusty alleys of Dohuk. "Allo Mistair!" comes the greeting from the peshmargas guarding the bridges as you cross your Land-Cruiser. On the goat-tracks up to the hilltop villages, little brown-faced girls in purple gowns, bent under the weight of the firewood on their backs, shyly return your wave. Men put down their hoes and come out of the rice paddies and give you a muddy hand to shake.

"Allo Mistair, so when you cut Saddam's throat for us?" When indeed, President Saddam has blocked Kurdistan's borders and a desperately poor economy is only kept going by the ingenuity of the mule drivers who bring cooking oil and soap over the mountain passes from Iran and the oil-smuggled boys who sell smuggled petrol from jerry cans by the roadside.

The police chief in Sulaimanyeh showed me a cabinet case full of plastic bombs which Iraqi agents have attached to the lozenges of international aid convoys. Several weeks ago, President Saddam suddenly withdrew the 24 dinar note from circulation. Since most Kurds hold their savings in huge wads of 25 denomination notes, the effect was to wipe out the value of most people's savings at a stroke. In all these manoeuvres, President Saddam's strategy is simple: nibble, nibble, while the West's back is turned and when he is sure we're not looking, pounce.

The American jets enforcing the no-fly zone over northern Iraq are all that stand in the way of President Saddam's tanks and helicopter gunships. The Kurds have been betrayed so often that their favourite saying is that they have no friends but the mountains. So they do not entirely trust anyone. But just now, Kurdistan must be one of the rare places in the world where people smile and point when they see American

jets thundering overhead. The West got something right here, and the village people crowd around Mistair to tell him so. Technically, Kurdistan is not a state, just the three northern governorates of the state of Iraq. Kurdistan flies no flag, no national anthem is played, when parliament convenes, though there is a police force, an army and a local administration. Real power remains in the hands of the parties and the peace-time warlords who command the peshmargas with their Kalashnikovs.

Kurdish politicians and international aid workers play along with the official fiction that the territorial integrity of Iraq has been maintained. But in reality, Kurdistan is an unprecedented experiment in international law: it is the first attempt to create an internationally protected enclave within a sovereign state in order to protect a people threatened with genocide by their own nominal rulers. If we get the principle right in Kurdistan, we might be able to get it right in Bosnia on behalf of the Muslims. The problem is that we haven't got it right in Kurdistan. We have helped the people back on their feet, but we have left them in a dangerous political limbo.

On the wild and beautiful mountain road from Dohuk to Barzani, you pass village after village, flattened by the Iraqi army during the 1980s, now rebuilt with the help of Swiss, German, Dutch and French charities. You see village dispensaries treating village children for typhoid, scabies and dysentery. The village doctors even tell you they have got most of the infectious disease under control, thanks to UNICEF, UNHCR and Médecins sans Frontières.

Villagers are returning to the 4,500 villages which Iraqis razed, dynamited and gassed during the 1980s. Most people are no longer

living in tents in the plains; breeze-block houses, with sheet metal outdoor, toilets are rising up the steep hillsides. The turbaned shepherds are returning to the upland meadows with their flocks. The marshlands are being turned into rice paddies; the huge plains are sown with wheat. A beautiful country is slowly coming awake from 20 years of terror and destruction. Squatter families have run their washing lines up over President Saddam's palaces, barracks and prisons.

But the fear that he will return is everywhere. At one of the new Kurdish television stations in Erbil, a local actor does a perfect imitation of the great dictator's television addresses, using a Spitting Image rubber mask. But when I ask him to take off the mask and let me take a picture he shyly demurs, for fear that someone will mark him down for trouble if President Saddam ever comes back. When I talk to the head of the security in Erbil, he takes me out of town into the middle of a field of ripening wheat. In town, a crowd might gather; in his own office, someone might be listening.

It is not just Iraq who is trying to snuff out the Kurdish experiment. Iranians are also having a nibble. On Kurdistan's eastern border, the Iranians have been shelling Kurdish villages and strafing peshmarga bases with bombs. In one base, near Qandil, three kilometres from the Iranian border, I saw the shell cases of 29 American-made cluster bombs, dropped on the base by Iranian Mirages in March, killing four people and damaging the base hospital.

Kurdistan needs our help because none of its neighbours — Turkey, Iran, Iraq and Syria — want it to survive. All of them fear what a free Kurdistan will mean to their own indigenous Kurds. It is already a base and a beacon to the 25 million Kurds in

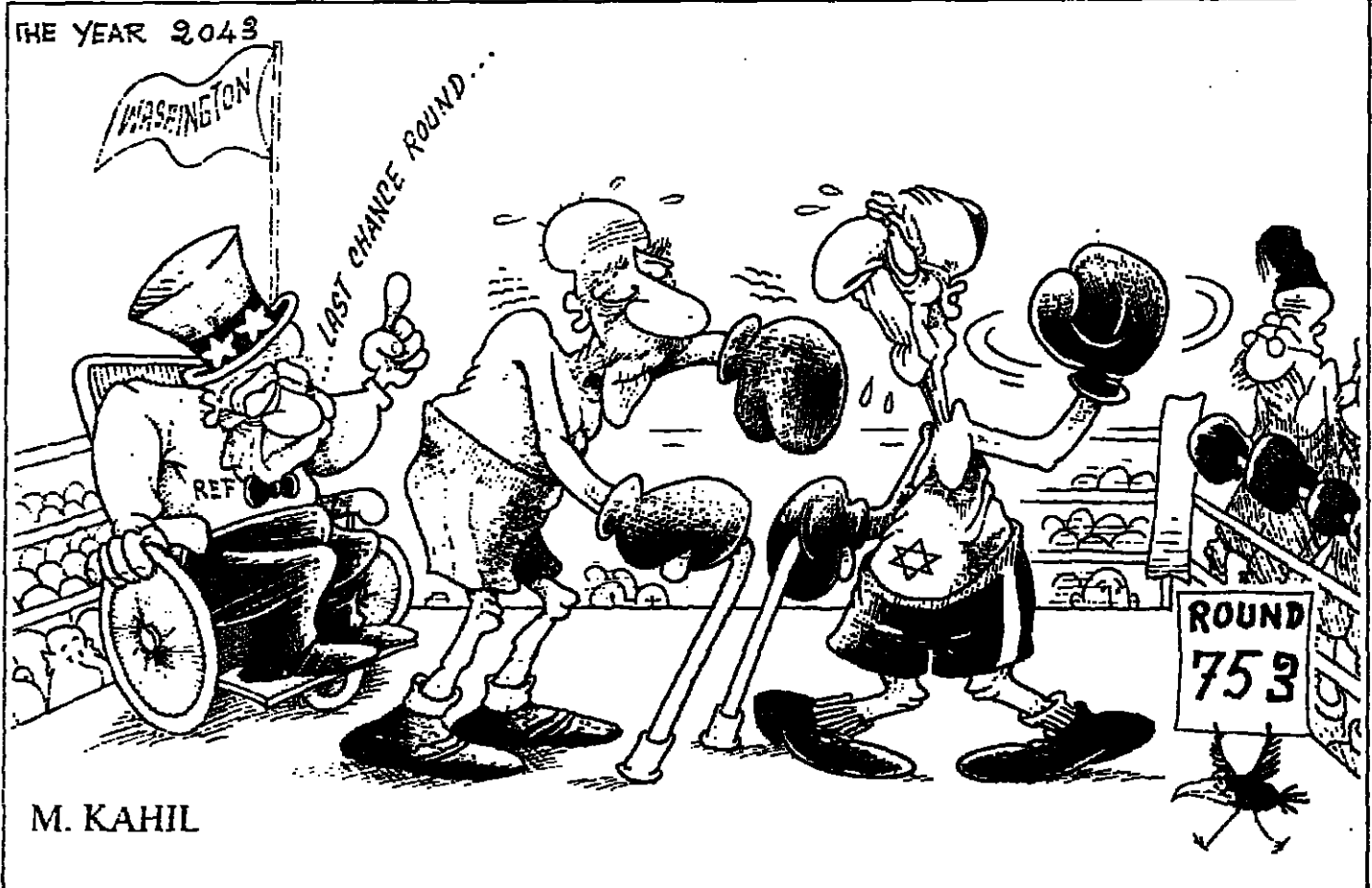
the region. What the Kurds desperately need from Washington and London is a cast-iron guarantee of security: a commitment that, no matter what, the overflights will continue. Beyond that, President Saddam must be required to end the economic blockade of Kurdistan, so that it can begin importing Iraqi oil to get its economy on its feet.

Iraqi assets frozen abroad could be used to fund a temporary coupon currency which would free the Kurds from President Saddam's manipulation of the dinar. He could be told that if his agents or army enter the enclave zone, there will be retaliatory air strikes. The Iranians could be told the same message.

Instead of demonstrating our commitment, we seem to be disengaging. The U.N. is withdrawing its armed guards for relief operations and has announced that the U.N. fund for aid to Kurdistan is drastically undersubscribed. Kurdistan's roads, bridges, schools cry out to be rebuilt, but already the big western aid caravan is moving on to other destinations. Saddam Hussein watches all of this and waits for us to turn our backs.

Something absolutely vital is at stake in Kurdistan. We have taken a people under our protection, and as more states disintegrate or turn into cannibals, feeding on the flesh of their own, we will have to take more peoples under the protection of western air power and humanitarian aid. But in Kurdistan, we have left them in a limbo, hanging on year by year, for the renewal of the aid and the overflights.

A Kurdish state is on the agenda for the day after tomorrow, when Saddam Hussein is gone. Till then, they deserve to know that we will stay the course, that they will never find themselves bitterly saying, "Goodbye, Mistair" — The Observer.



Palestinians pay for fury of the young

By Sarah Helm

THE GOING rate for a child in Gaza yesterday was 3,000 shekels (£700). Outside Gaza City police station parents queued quietly in the dust, clutching pieces of paper — receipts to show they had paid the bill. "It is expensive. It is blackmail. But I don't want to leave him in prison," said Ahmad, who has had no word since Israel closed the occupied territories in March. Last time Hussam, his son, was accused of throwing stones at soldiers, his father got the "ransom" money back from the Israeli authorities, who refund it if no accusations are made against the child for a year.

"I won't get the money back this time," he says, wincing. "I won't be able to keep him off the streets. He is older. He is 16." It is tough being a father in the Gaza Strip. The Israeli "ransom" for a child is supposed to be an incentive for parental discipline. Israelis often accuse Palestinian parents of "sending their children out to the front line." Some even claim Palestinian parents are partly responsible for the record child death toll this year in Gaza and West Bank, where 34 Palestinian children have been killed by Israeli gunfire since January; 12 were under the age of 13. An

18-month-old boy, Fares Al Kaduri, was shot dead in Gaza last week. But between the "discipline" of the Israeli authorities and "discipline" of Palestinian shebab — youth leaders — parents have lost all control. When the 1987 intifada broke out, parents, often torn between desire to support the uprising, and fear for the safety of their children, tried to hold their children back — only to be damned by the street and sometimes by their own offspring. Gaza swarms so busily with children that at first you don't notice the parents at all. Some stay indoors. Fouad Afana, whose daughter Suher, age 13, was shot dead by Israelis in 1988, has rarely left home since. "I want my children to be martyred for the sake of the Palestinians. I want them to fight," he says, as his 11-year-old watches.

Other parents just sit anxiously on the sidelines as the battles commence, bailing out the captured, receiving the injured, comparing notes about their offspring's injuries and arrests, or burying the dead. Mohammad Majid, a municipal officer, says his son was beaten yesterday. He produces a scrap of paper as proof: "Cat to forehead

and swelling. Alleged assault by army." He adds: "I paid 500 shekels for him last year." Across the road, 15 soldiers pile out of two jeeps and corner a terrified 14-year-old. Conscious of the press, they let him go. A large woman comes out, hysterically beating the youth, as if to say, "If my son must be punished, I will do it."

On Nasser Street, cowed figures sit outside the military court. Parents again, hoping to catch sight of their children, should they appear before the military judges. Yusuf Arif, unemployed, has come to catch a glimpse of 14-year-old Hisham. They came to the house and just took him away. They said he was the one throwing a stone because he had a yellow T-shirt.

The discipline of the street is strict and the children have a cause, which seems to give them a self-respect — a strength even — that their parents have lost. Every child is "affiliated" to a political faction. Basil Al Kaduri, 16, was out throwing stones when the soldiers shot dead his 18-month-old brother, Fares, metres from his home.

"If my father told me to stay at home I would say no," says Basil, who is studying to be a mechanic.

"He asks me to study, but if there are clashes he doesn't try to stop me. He tells me to be careful." Basil says there are dos and don'ts for the clashes. "Always use your mind. Never throw stones if you don't know the alleyways around to escape. Only go close up to fast moving vehicles. They won't have the chance to shoot. Never shout names or wear the same clothes."

The teenager says he has no hobbies except talking "politics." He has no books except banned literature on "Israeli interrogation techniques." In his family's iron-roofed shack there are no toys, no games. Just mattresses or bare concrete floor.

His father, clearly a broken man, listens quietly as the boy says: "Older people should do more for the intifada for the benefit of Palestine."

Fares died in his father's arms. They were sheltering from the clashes. "When the gunshot rang out the baby looked up at me. I hugged him because I thought the noise had scared him. Then I looked down and he had vomited blood." The military commander for Gaza came round and apologised the next day. "He said he too had a baby daughter the same age." — The Independent.

Have no illusions, U.S. remains committed to Israel

By G.H. Jansen

WHILE America's policy towards many parts of the world — Western Europe or the Balkans — is uncertain or changeable, its policy towards the Middle East has been laid out in clear, hard terms in a speech given by Martin Indyk in Washington on May 18.

And who might Martin Indyk be? He is the person appointed by President Bill Clinton to be in charge of the Middle East on the National Security Council (NSC). An Australian, he went to the U.S. in 1992 to work as deputy research director at the American-Israeli Public Affairs Committee, the best-known and most influential lobby in the U.S., run by pro-Israel American Jewish Zionists. After some time as "an institutionally identified partisan of Israel," he became executive director of the Washington Institute for Near East Affairs, an ostensibly less partisan, because better camouflaged, Zionist think tank founded and funded and, for the most part, run by American Jewish Zionists.

Mr. Indyk was granted a U.S. passport two weeks before he joined the NSC, which advises the president on foreign affairs. He was appointed after the Zionist lobby complained that Jews in the Clinton entourage were liberals and not as friendly to Israel as AIPAC would like.

According to Jewish sources in "The Jewish Week" magazine in Washington, Mr. Indyk said recently that "the U.S. should not be evenhanded as it mediates the current Middle East peace process," but should instead work to persuade the Palestinians to accept Israel's position. Little wonder that when the U.S. presented a position paper at the end of the latest, ninth round of Israeli-Palestinian bilateral talks in Washington, the Palestinians found that it contained not merely Israeli ideas but actual Israeli wording because it had been framed jointly by the U.S. and Israel and without prior consultation with the Palestinian delegation.

That a person with Mr. Indyk's open and pro-Israel credentials should be put directly in charge of America's relations with the Middle East makes absolutely clear that the U.S. is no neutral go-between between Israel and the Arabs. Mr. Indyk's policy speech, delivered to his Institute for Near East Policy, began with the basics: "America's friends in the Middle East are Israel, Egypt, Saudi Arabia and Turkey. U.S. objectives were: to promote democracy, protect U.S. business interests and the U.S. national interest against threats from radical regimes; 'to stem the flow of weapons of mass destruction' (but not to eliminate such weapons already in the area such as Israel's 200 nuclear bombs); and achieve a real and comprehensive regional peace."

The U.S. national interests were said to be the free flow of Middle Eastern oil at reasonable prices; friendship with Arab states prepared to be friendly with the U.S.; "an abiding interest in the security and survival of Israel" (no explanation of how and why this

is an American national interest) and regional peace. The enemies of the U.S. in the area are Iraq (no reasons given but taken for granted) and Iran for five reasons: it sponsors terrorism and assassination across the globe; through Hamas and Hizbollah it is trying to disrupt the peace process; it is trying to subvert friendly governments, trying to dominate the Gulf and to acquire nuclear weapons.

Therefore Iran and Iraq both have to be contained in a "double containment" and not, as before, played-off against each other (as in the first Gulf war). And this "by restricting the military ambitions of both." The emerging threat of Islamic extremism must also be contained.

If the U.S. — if necessary by force — were to make Iraq comply with all U.N. resolutions Iraq would no longer be a "threat to its neighbourhood" (no longer to its "neighbours" only). The U.S. already backs the Iraqi opposition group, the Iraqi National Council, and allies must be encouraged to do the same.

Overthrowing President Saddam Hussein is no longer enough: compliance with U.N. resolutions must come from a successor Iraqi regime. Not "do we seek or expect a reconciliation with the Saddam Hussein regime" because it is "a criminal regime, beyond the pale of international society, and, in our judgement, irredeemable."

Attempts by Iran and Iraq to "rebuild their arsenals," particularly in the nuclear and ballistic fields, should be blocked.

Iran is just as much, if not a greater, danger as Iraq because it is not constrained by U.N. resolutions. Therefore, "we will not normalise relations with Iran until and unless Iran's policies change across the board." Without "dramatic changes in Iran's behaviour" the U.S. and its allies should not "ease Iran's economic situation."

The few grains of comfort that the Arabs could gain from this exposition of U.S. policy towards the area are to be found in evidence of Mr. Indyk's illusions or his ignorance. Thus he is clearly indulging in wishful thinking when he elevates Turkey to the position of an important regional asset. And he is wholly misinformed when he said "the coalition that found Saddam Hussein remains together" when, in fact, it is in pieces.

Why does Mr. Indyk pursue Iran and Iraq with such special hostility? Because they are the only two governments in the area that remain antagonistic to Israel and are also not prepared to be meek and humble and obedient to the One World Power. So they have to be brought to heel.

This vitally important, chilling, and arrogant document, which tells the Arabs to "take it or leave it, like it or lump it," is a surefire prescription for more regional wars. But, nevertheless, it has one merit — its brutal frankness. There can be no excuse for the local friends of Israel like Egypt and Saudi Arabia to pretend that the Clinton administration is anything but wholly and actively pro-Israel.

LETTERS

Bitter lessons to learn

To the Editor:

GHASSAN HUDHUD was a friend of ours and we will remember him with smiles and in happy moments because that is the way he would have expected us to remember him. But another more tragic memory that will stay with us is the way he was unexpectedly removed from our midst. Ghassan was killed four days ago by someone who was too drunk to stop at a red light. The question that will continue to haunt us is whether our friend would have still lived if police had inspected for drunk drivers late at night.

Instead of the more profitable — at least financially — rush hour inspections by the police, one car at the main intersection where our friend was killed could have meant a safer journey for Ghassan who was out to get medicine for his ailing mother. It may have meant that people who do not drink — like our friend — would have been protected from people who are too irresponsible to realise that drinking and driving do not mix. Do not drink and drive should become the advice given by the police and the media and enforced by the authorities. It should be strongly enforced not only through fines, but through laws and courts that will send offenders to prison. Traffic laws should not be only a source of additional income for the treasury. We need to review our laws and amend them to make people aware that it is a criminal offence to drink and drive. So as not to waste the loss of Ghassan, let us stop this carnage. May his soul rest in peace.

Ghassan's friends

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.

HOW DO JORDANIANS VOTE?

Kinship and charisma vs. media and political platform

By Samir Shafiq
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A study on patterns of communication used during the 1989 parliamentary election campaign to reach the electorate throughout the Kingdom has revealed that personal communication had strongly affected the voting behaviour in rural and badia regions while mass media were more powerful in the urban sector.

The study, finalised in the summer of 1992 by Hilmi Khader Sari, assistant professor at the Department of Sociology at the University of Jordan, used quota sampling of 650 students from the 13 colleges of the university. The sample comprised 130 male and 130 female students for each of the rural and urban sectors and 65 male and 65 female students for the badia sector.

The variables of the study were initially four but, after a pilot study was done by the researcher, the variables were reduced to two relevant ones: Sex and social sector (badia, rural and urban).

Of the 650 students, all of whom voted during the 1989 elections, 394 students, for 60.6 per cent, from the three sectors said they were "always" following up on the election campaign.

The number of those who "sometimes" followed up on the campaign was 181, or 27.8 per cent, while those who "rarely" did, numbered 75, or 11.5 per cent.

The reasons and motives behind following up on the election campaign greatly varied between the urban sector on the one hand and the rural and badia sectors on the other, although a total of 338 students said their motives were purely informational.

The badia students came first when 72 of them (55.4 per cent) said their interest in the election campaign was for "kinship" motives as they were eager to know news about their relatives' candi-

date. Eighty four rural students (32.3 per cent) gave the same reason while only 37 urban students, or 14.3 per cent, said "kinship" was their motive.

Friendship as a motive was the least important factor to have influenced the 650-student sample as "friendship" was the reason for 31 students in the urban sector (11.9 per cent), 25 students in the rural sector (9.6 per cent) and six students in the badia areas (4.6 per cent).

Overall, the "information" or general knowledge motive attracted 338 students (161 males and 177 females) and accounted for 52.0 per cent of the total.

The "kinship" motive attracted 193 students (117 males and 76 females) and accounted for 29.7 per cent. The "friendship" motive affected 62 students (27 males and 35 females) or 9.5 per cent. Fifty seven students, or 8.8 per cent said they were motivated by more than one of the reasons mentioned.

The second stage of the study covered the reasons that influenced voters to select a particular electoral district. Badia students were not really free to choose a particular district as they were restricted to voting in one of the three badia districts only (the place of residence).

As such, the total number of those who chose a specific district for residence reason was 328, or 50.5 per cent, while those whose reason was linked to the candidate himself, for personal considerations, numbered 171, or 26.3 per cent. The students who marked both reasons totalled 151, or 23.2 per cent.

In the urban sector, the number of students who had the "residence" as reason was 117, almost equally divided between males and females. However, those who chose the constituency of a candidate to be their reason

for registering to vote at that specific location numbered only 78 students (41 males and 37 females), 65 students marked both "residence" and "candidate" as being factors for voting in a specific centre.

Rural women chose their voting centre more for "residence" considerations. Fifty three (40.8 per cent) female students marked this item, compared to 38 male students (29.2 per cent). Most rural men had the "candidate" as the reason for selecting their voting centres since 49 students (37.7 per cent) cited that preference.

A total of 89 students (43 males and 37 females) from rural regions cited both "residence" and "candidate" as having affected their choice for a specific voting centre.

The third part of the study analysed the effects of various types of mass media used by the candidates to influence voters' behaviour and the attitude of public opinion during elections.

Dr. Sari found that out of many methods, except for radio and television, the "election programme" topped the list of mass media channels in influencing to a great extent the badia regions. Eighty two students (42 males and 40 females), or 63 per cent, indicated being persuaded by this factor.

The election programme was also an important factor in rural areas but to a lesser extent than the badia regions because those who were influenced by the election programme totalled 108 rural students, or 41.5 per cent. Out of the 108 total, 63 were females and only 45 were males.

In urban areas, the number was even less as personal communication affected the choice of 92 students (51 women and 41 men) or 35.3 per cent.

Daily newspapers ranked in second place in terms of their power to influence electorates, but their effect was greater in urban areas, followed by the rural

and badia regions.

In urban areas, newspapers mainly formulated the decisions of 76 students (44 females and 32 males) or 29.2 per cent while in rural areas the numbers were 75, or 28.8 per cent, almost equally divided between men and women.

The badia regions were the least affected by newspaper ads but the percentage was relatively noticeable at 23.8 per cent. The breakdown was, however, 21 males and 10 females.

Overall, the number of students who were influenced by newspapers totalled 182 students, or 28 per cent of the total. Personal communication or election programmes attracted an overall 282 students, or 43.3 per cent of the total.

Signs spread across streets were in third place as to their impact on voters' decisions. Students who ranked signs as the third influence numbered 100, accounting for 15.4 per cent of the total.

Of the 100 students, 46 (22 males and 24 females) were from urban areas, 42 (26 males and 16 females) came from rural areas and the rest (12 females and two males) were from the badia region.

Leaflets attracted 9.1 per cent of the voters or 59 of the 650-student sample.

This form of promotion was not marked by any male from the badia but, three badia women cited leaflets as being the fourth influence in their voting decision.

Leaflets had the biggest impact in urban regions where 25 men and 11 women (13.8 per cent of the urban total) were influenced by them.

Twenty rural students (11 males and nine females), or 7.6 per cent of the rural total, also ranked leaflets in fourth place.

The least effective method in the campaign was found by Dr. Sari to be the promotion through posters.

Only 10 urban men, 15 rural (11 men and four women) students and two females from the badia said posters were least effective.

The fourth stage of the study was measuring various types of personal communication on the attitude of the voters. The coverage, which included group discussions because it allowed for a "feedback" between the electorate and the candidate, comprised also the effect of reference groups such as parents, relatives, friends and family or village notables.

Overall, out of the 650-student sample, 215 or 33 per cent (107 males and 108 females), 161 or 24.7 per cent (75 males and 86 females), and 100 or 16.9 per cent (69 males and 41 females), said they were influenced by their parents, relatives and group discussions respectively. Those who ranked family or village notables and friends in fourth and fifth place were respectively 108 students or 16.6 per cent (51 males and 57 females), and 56 students or 8.6 per cent (23 males and 33 females).

The parents topped the scale in the badia regions; 62 students, 35 of whom females, accounting for 47.7 per cent, adopted the view of their mothers or fathers.

Relatives came as a second influence for badia students but sharply down at 29.2 per cent, or 38 students; followed by family or tribe notables at 12.3 per cent or 16 students. Group discussions were mentioned by 11 students (8.4 per cent) and friends by only three (2.3 per cent).

Rural students ranked parents, relatives and notables for the first three effects at 30.7 per cent, 30 per cent and 20 per cent respectively. The number of the students was respectively 80, of whom 46 were males, 78 equally split between both sexes and 53 students, mostly women (32 females and 16 males).

Group discussions and friends

Influence	No. of students	Percentage
Parents	244	37.6
Relatives	125	19.3
Group discussion	92	14.2
Family/Village notables	68	10.5
Election programme	57	8.7
Friends	32	4.9
Newspaper advertisements	25	3.8
Signs	4	0.6
Leaflets	3	0.4
Posters	—	—
Total	650	100.0

A breakdown by sex revealed the overall following results.

Influence	Males	%	Females	%
Parents	107	32.9	137	42.1
Relatives	58	17.8	67	20.6
Group discussion	60	18.5	32	9.8
Notables	37	14.2	31	9.5
Election programme	29	8.9	28	8.6
Friends	16	4.9	16	4.9
Advertisements	15	4.6	10	3.1
Signs	3	0.9	1	0.3
Leaflets	—	—	3	0.9
Posters	—	—	—	—

influence were at the bottom of the scale at 10.4 per cent (22 males and five females) and 8.9 per cent (seven males and 16 females).

Parents had the highest influence on urban students followed by group discussions and family notables as the rating was respectively 28.7 per cent (34 males and 39 females), 27.7 per cent (38 males and 34 females) and 15.3 per cent (25 males and 15 females).

Relatives were cited as having had the fourth effect and friends the fifth effect for, respectively, 17.3 per cent (19 males and 26 females) and 11.5 per cent (14 males and 16 females).

Having separately examined the mass media and personal communication effects on the electorate, Dr. Sari combined,

analysed and compared both patterns revealing the following overall results:

The "parents" factor was highest in the badia sector of 47.7 per cent (25 males and 37 females) followed by relatives and notables at 24.6 per cent (15 males and 17 females) and 10 per cent (9 males and 4 females) respectively.

Group discussions in the badia sector ranked fourth at 9.2 per cent (15 males and two females) while "friends" came in fifth place at 3.1 per cent.

Mass media trailed the list with only two elements: election programme, 3.1 per cent, and newspaper ads 2.3 per cent (2 males and one female).

Signs, leaflets and posters were not cited by any of the badia students.

"Parents" also topped the list of influences in the rural sector registering 37.3 per cent (46 males and 51 females). Relatives and group discussions were respectively next, at 19.2 per cent (23 males and 27 females) and 13.8 per cent (23 males and 13 females).

"Notables" recorded 13.1 per cent (16 males and 18 females) on the rural list ahead of "friends" who stood at 5.7 per cent.

The influence of mass media was slightly better in the rural sector than in the badia registering 6.1 per cent (10 males and 6 females) for election programme and 3.5 per cent (6 males and 3 females) for newspaper advertisement.

Leaflets and signs were of negligible influence at 0.7 per cent and 0.4 per cent respectively.

Mass media had its highest influence in the urban sector where the election programme lead with 14.2 per cent followed, at five per cent, by newspaper ads then signs and leaflets at 1.1 per cent and 0.4 per cent respectively.

None of the urban students marked posters as having had any influence at all.

The strength of mass media in the urban sector should not be misunderstood because personal communication still had higher influence, though, much less than in the badia or rural sectors.

"Parents" influenced 32.7 per cent of the urban sample or 36 males and 49 females. Group discussions ranked in second place at 16.9 per cent (27 males and 17 females) followed by "relatives" for which 20 males and 23 females attributed their voting choice.

"Family notables" influence fell in the urban sector to 8.1 per cent, having been marked only by 12 males and nine females.

"Friends" accounted for five per cent, males numbered nine compared to only four females.

WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY

Survival and environment are inseparable

By William H. Draper

Years of experience have taught us that the struggle for survival and environmental protection are inseparable. This important connection has not been lost on developing countries where poverty forces people to overexploit their natural resources — forests, fisheries and minerals.

Recognising the crucial link between poverty and the environment, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has supported countless developing country governments, community groups and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) in their efforts to help the world's poor develop more sustainable livelihoods that better protect the environment.

In Mali, previously unemployed university graduates received training, equipment and credit to establish a waste disposal business in the capital city, Bamako. The business has prospered and currently provides garbage removal services for 18,000 residents. In Rajasthan, India, 500 village women have been encouraged to plant and harvest mulberry trees. The trees provide natural fencing and help to anchor the soil against erosion, while also providing the women with income. In Rwanda, concern about a lack of food and cultivable land prompted women from the Burero Nutritional Centre to secure financial support to drain marshland so they could create a fruit and fuelwood tree nursery. The nursery has helped to reforest the hills of the region and provide new sources of food and income for the women.

Over the last decade, there has been a dramatic increase in grassroots development efforts worldwide. Today, NGO activities are reported to benefit 250 million people, compared with fewer than 100 million in early 1980. The advantages of this kind of community-based participation are clear. But there are limits as to how much can be accomplished through such action. Of the 13 billion people who live in absolute poverty in developing countries, not even 20 per cent have benefited from NGO involvement.

On this World Environment Day, UNDP feels it is important to underscore once again that concern for the global environment must also reflect a concern for global poverty. Struggling daily with malnutrition, illiteracy

and disease, the poor live shorter lives, lose their children to illnesses that barely exist in industrialised countries, and are forced to perpetuate their poverty by depleting the natural resources on which their and their children's future depends — simply to survive.

For more than 40 years, UNDP, through its worldwide network of 124 country offices, has committed itself to improving the living conditions of the world's poor by encouraging the participation of people to ensure the sustainability of all development efforts. Working under the mandate bestowed on it last year by the international community at the Earth Summit, UNDP has diligently sought to mainstream environmental concerns into all economic development efforts.

Through its capacity 21 Programme, UNDP is assisting developing countries in building up their capacity to plan and manage environmental programmes which support sustainable development. Through the Local Initiative Facility for Urban Environment (LIFE), UNDP is helping municipal governments and community groups at the local and regional levels mobilise resources to stem increasing environmental degradation in urban areas. LIFE's capacity-building philosophy is similar to UNDP's Africa 2000 Network and the Asia Pacific 2000 initiative, which provide small grants for NGO-run sustainable development projects. Through the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), special support has been provided for poor women, whose role as the main providers of food, fuel and water makes them among the first to suffer when land is degraded, trees disappear and water supplies are polluted.

Last year's Earth Summit laid the groundwork for a worldwide coalition to work towards the elimination of poverty in the name of the environment. Now, more than ever before, it is clear that no global plan to safeguard the planet can hope to be realistic unless it strives to meet the needs and concerns of the poor people living in developing countries. Let us remember that simple fact on this World Environment Day, as we rededicate ourselves to the important goals set forth at Rio de Janeiro.

An economic spectre returns to haunt Clinton

By Alver Carlson
Reuters

WASHINGTON — A spectre is returning to haunt President Bill Clinton — stagflation, an economic terror that struck at the heart of his Democratic predecessor.

Analysts see stagflation as an administration-destroying combination of snail-like growth and increasing inflation.

The last Democrat in the White House, Jimmy Carter, battled these twin evils but in the end was overpowered — a lesson recalled by some of Mr. Clinton's more seasoned policymakers.

Inflation worries have surfaced in recent weeks, while the U.S. economy is barely making any headway as evidenced by last week's release of the revised

gross domestic product for the first quarter showing a tepid 0.9 per cent annual rise.

"We're talking about moderate stagflation, not the sort that hit the country in the late 1970s, but it is becoming a concern," said David Jones of Aubrey G. Lanston and Co. Inc.

Even at moderate levels, however, the problem can be insidious, impairing the ability of the Federal Reserve to conduct a balanced monetary policy and companies to plan ahead.

The Fed is reportedly leaning towards tightening monetary policy to combat worries about inflation and the falling dollar but analysts don't expect the central

bank to act soon.

In part, this is because increasing interest rates can lead to an economic slowdown, a prospect that neither the Fed nor the administration is hardly thrilled about considering the already slow pace of the recovery, analysts said.

Underlying all this, of course, is the economic package being pressed by the administration, which managed after a Herculean political effort by Mr. Clinton to achieve passage in the House.

Mr. Clinton must now bang on the door of the Senate, where the package of tax increases and spending cuts is likely to find less of a welcome.

The administration's close call in the house, however, suggests just how much trouble Mr. Clinton is having learning the ways of

Washington and it is this perception that is causing some disarray in currency, markets, analysts said.

This has caused, according to some analysts, a decision by investors to back away from the dollar, leading to a sharp plunge in its value and largely unsuccessful attempts by treasury officials or the Fed to stem the flow.

There is speculation that a disagreement exists among those in the administration that would like to see a lower dollar because it helps make United States goods more competitive overseas and those who worry that it will add to inflation by making foreign goods more expensive here.

Treasury Under Secretary Lawrence Summers went public twice last week on the currency turmoil, saying the United States

did not want to see the yen appreciate further.

He was joined Friday by Commerce Secretary Ron Brown, who said there is no administration policy to push the yen higher.

But those who believe that the administration wants a lower dollar, point to last week's unveiling of the semi-annual report on exchange rate policy which they say seems to provide that impression.

"The moves on the dollar are politically-driven," says one analyst.

But while a version of stagflation may be in the works, it is a much tamer animal than the one that stalked the Carter administration.

The Georgia peanut farmer suffered under the second oil shock in 1979 that sent prices

skyward and at times reduced supplies to a trickle — adding to inflation and shutting down western economies.

The current situation is far less serious but in some ways more complex. The U.S. economy and those of its trading partners are in different cycles with the American expansion, tepid though it is, outpacing Europe and Japan.

For its part, the United States is hoping for stronger economies overseas so that demand for its goods will increase, reducing its huge trade deficit with its trading partners, especially Japan.

As the administration learns its way and works to get its economic package through Congress, the last thing it needs is to have the U.S. economy revisited by a form of stagflation or even fears that it is returning, analysts said.

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- 3) Volvo Station Wagon 1991 A/C, R/C, 4 cylinder, 23,133 KMS, very good condition.
Base price JD 10,000
- 4) Land Rover 1990, 4WD, RHD, diesel 12, 612 kms, needs maintenance.
Base price JD 5,000/-
- 5) Suzuki Samurai JX 1990, 4WD, 4 cylinder, 25,938 KMS, needs maintenance.
Base price JD 3,000
- 6) Nissan Patrol 1991, 25,749 KMS, bad condition.
Base price JD 1,750
- 7) Nissan Patrol 1991, 8,491 KMS, bad condition.
Base price JD 2,500
- 8) Nissan Patrol 1991, 32,532 KMS, bad condition.
Base price JD 2,500
- 9) Nissan Patrol 1991, 8,946 KMS, bad condition.
Base price JD 1,750
- 10) Nissan Patrol 1991, 31,225 KMS, bad condition.
Base price JD 1,750

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Power shortfalls hamper Indian economic takeoff

Added to this are inflated bills, various surcharges and illegal connections obtained with the connivance of officials.

Indian exports to hard currency countries in March jumped 14 per cent from March 1992. Commerce Minister A.V. Ganesan said in an interview.

India aimed to reach 15 per cent growth in exports to hard currency areas — countries outside the former East Bloc — 1993/94, he said.

because of a collapse in India rupee trade with the former Soviet Bloc.

Some 100,000 industrial units in and around New Delhi have

The ultimate aim of the Indian government was to see that the negative list of exports contained only those items which concerned environment and safety, M. Ganesan said.

Consumer goods would be kept on the negative list of imports due to India's difficult balance of payments position, he said.

"Maybe over the next couple of years we will be able to prune the negative list of consumer items.

SCOPE
TURDAY JUNE 5, 1993
oger, Carroll Righter Foundation
 but tonight brings a happy accord
 with an outside partner.
LIBRA: (September 23 to October
 22) Whatever you have in mind
 where you're going to go, you

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Don't make any changes in the manner in which you handle

HOROSCOPE

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

LIBRA: (September 23 to October

22) Whatever you have in mind where an outside change can occur that affects your usual activities

WHO'S THIS GUY?

THE PRINCIPAL... WE HAVE TO TELL HIM WHY WE'RE LATE

TELL HIM THE BUS DIDN'T COME, AND WE WALKED ALL THE WAY

ASK HIM IF HE REMEMBERS ANY OF US..

McGraw-Hill 1964

Andy Carroll

Andy Capp

Mutt'n'J

LITTLE JEFF, IN AN EMERGENCY BOUT IS TAKING QUITE A BEATING! BUT HE'S GOT COURAGE!

I WO JEFF THIS HE N SAU TH

Mutt'n'loff

MULL HORN

LITTLE JEFF, IN AN EMERGENCY SOUT IS TAKING QUITE A BEATING! BUT HE'S GOT COURAGE!

I WONDER IF JEFF COULD CATCHER THIS RING! HE MIGHT BE SAVED BY THE BELL!

HE'S GOING DOWN!

SNEEZE, JEFF, SNEEZE! IT'S OUR ONLY CHANCE!

ONE TWO THREE FOUR

AAAAHCOO!

EIGHT, NINE - GESUNDHEIT!

BONG!

SAVED BY THE BELL! LUCKY FOR US THAT THE REF IS A GENT!

THE Daily Crossword by *Bernice Gordon*

ACROSS

- Rotating pieces
- Football game
- The majority
- Barrel of burden
- Where's Rappa? actor
- Inter —
- Excavation
- Farwell
- Shagbark
- Onco in a — (trump)
- Puzzlement
- a bell (aroused the memory)
- Biological victim
- Construction by Gaider
- Walt Disney, e.g.
- Go-ahead
- First name of a former veep
- Regret
- Mistle-bum
- Blank or barm beginning
- Tiny pieces
- Not for
- Oullandish
- Shall lining
- Smash
- Put up for sale
- A Whole — Death in the Family
- Quince, e.g.
- Fall
- Elusive
- Vincynol act
- Vast expanse
- Ben Adair
- Bway
- Well-built
- Stupor
- Abba from Israel
- Drop or high start

DOWN

- Bird a cress
- and angri
- Cain car
- Looking with
- Howing
- Not for
- Maestro-like
- The —
- Enviably maternal
- Casino of fashion
- Where Mrs. Leavenworth taught
- Ciao
- French treaty
- Refr. ingredient
- Verne hero
- Charged parable
- Parrot
- Poetized arch
- Chief president
- At — can do so
- Wine (Queen)
- Ruse
- Bizarre
- Adjust
- Portion
- With no saddle
- Jaton's craft
- Tam, Dick or Harry
- Personal encores
- French town
- Of the dawn
- Eng. composer
- Barok
- Black, to poets

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A. Eugene Newman, Jr.

Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

TYER	BERG	SPAIN
HOPI	ALGERIA	MALE
OPEN	CRAVENS	RIDE
REEK	HOMELAND	
	PRER	EVER
BASALT	AGATE	
ALICE	ALIA	OVA
ROCK	TRIAL	TRAIL
ADD	RENE	MOIST
	SPARE	POSSES
ASEA	SOIC	
UNCLE	BUC	HAZE
SOAR	GENRE	OVEN
STRE	OTTER	POND
NOEL	SHOWS	ENDS

China arms conglomerate seeks overseas investment

BEIJING (R) — China's biggest arms manufacturer is seeking as much as \$900 million in foreign investment to expand in the civilian market, the official China Daily has said.

The China North Industries Group (Norinco), which makes everything from machineguns and armoured vehicles to toasters and motorcycles, is looking for foreign cash to help it move into upmarket civilian machinery and to boost its car production facilities.

"We're confident we can attract at least \$300 million worth of foreign investment this year," said Liu Tieping, deputy director of Norinco's development planning department.

"By 1993, we will have set up 200 joint ventures in a wide range of sectors," he pointed out.

Mr. Liu said the company planned to announce a total of 170 business plans for foreign investment at a ceremony in Hong Kong this month.

"That package includes not only machinery projects but a wide spectrum of other civilian ones, including real estate," the China Daily said.

With its strong military connections, Norinco is open of China's most powerful companies and biggest arms exporters. Its annual weapons sales averaged about \$1 billion during the 1980s.

A large conglomerate of over 300 separate enterprises and total

fixed assets of 10 billion yuan (\$1.72 billion). Norinco is already at the forefront of China's efforts to reorganise military factories toward civilian purposes.

Civilian goods such as machine tools, chemicals and refrigerators already account for almost two-thirds of the company's sales, including a big chunk of China's motorcycle and mini-van production.

The main thrust of Norinco's current search for overseas investment is aimed at car production.

Mr. Liu said Norinco was now setting up a special fund to support car and component manufacturing with the cooperation of a Swiss bank, a Hong Kong company and international accountants Arthur Andersen.

A separate car-making joint venture is under discussion with the U.S. Pacific Alliance Group, which would aim ultimately to have its shares listed on one of China's two fledgling stock markets or on overseas bourses, he was quoted as saying.

The China Daily said Norinco would soon sign an agreement with the German manufacturer of Neoplan cars to produce luxury limousines in China.

Another agreement is expected soon between Norinco and two Japanese companies to start annual production of 50,000 Alto sedans in central Sichuan province.

Japan to recycle \$120 billion of trade surplus

TOKYO (R) — Japan will adopt a five-year programme to recycle \$120 billion of its trade surplus to developing countries from this year, the Kyodo News Agency reported.

Kyodo quoted a government source as saying the programme, to be approved by a cabinet meeting set for June 25, would be roughly twice the size of a similar one between 1987 and 1992.

The size of the latest programme reflects Tokyo's intention to put its snowballing trade surplus to good use and show a positive attitude toward helping developing nations as the host of the July summit of the Group of Seven (G-7) industrial nations.

The centre-piece will be providing \$75 billion in official development assistance (ODA) between 1993 and 1997, mainly through public funds such as loans by the Export-Import Bank of Japan, Kyodo quoted the source as saying.

Among categories included in the programme will be about \$35 billion in loans by the government bank and \$10 billion in trade insurance.

The source said recipients eligible for the programme would include East European nations but exclude Russia because of complaints by developing nations in Asia, Latin America and Africa that donor countries excessively favour Russia.

KLM reports \$313m loss

AMSTERDAM (R) — A fierce struggle among airlines to entice passengers into empty seats resulted in Dutch flag-carrier KLM reporting its second big annual loss in three years Thursday.

And, with no respite in sight, analysts believe it is heading for a loss this year too.

KLM Royal Dutch Airlines made a loss of 562 million guilders (\$313 million) in the year to March 31, and said it would not pay a dividend. Last year it made a profit of 125 million (\$70 million) and paid a one guilder (55 cent) dividend.

"KLM's cost side is doing well and they are gaining market share, but it is simply outpaced by the low fares in economy and the shift away from business and first-class travel," said analyst Dick van der Kloos of Brokers Amst gtd.

KLM said in order to meet increased demand for economy class, it would rearrange seats on its 27 Boeing 747s, replacing 26 business-class seats with 39 economy from July, and phasing out royal (first) class seats on its 747s from the autumn.

Despite a 13 per cent improvement in employee productivity last year, Chairman Peter Bouw wants further cost cuts. "We must save another eight to ten per cent on those costs, we can influence in addition to our efforts on revenue," he said. Mr. Bouw declined to rule out job cuts.

He said the company would reexamine its routes and flight frequency, perhaps eliminating some routes altogether.

Analysts hope to see some recovery by the end of the current year, but not soon enough to stop

KLM racking up further losses of as much as 240 million guilders (\$134 million) this year.

Two years ago KLM lost 630 million guilders (\$352 million) as the Gulf war kept passengers away. When they returned, a fares war broke out which shows no signs of abating.

Recession-hit companies have cut back on costly executive air travel and switched to cheaper economy seats where possible. This coincided with extra seat capacity as the jets ordered in a late 1980s buying binge are delivered.

Airlines have slashed fares to unprecedented levels to fill those seats and few are making any money.

"Sanity says this has to end, but we see no sign of it so far," said Amstgtd's Van Der Kloos.

Swiss SMH profits jump 64%

BERNE (R) — SMH, Switzerland's biggest watchmaker and best known for its battery-powered plastic "Swatch,"

Thursday reported a 64 per cent jump in 1992 profit and said it hoped for more gains this year.

Group net profit rose to 413 million Swiss francs (\$290 million) in 1992 from 252 million francs (\$177 million) in 1991, with sales up at 2.85 billion francs (\$2 billion) against 2.37 billion francs (\$1.67 billion).

"We hope we shall record a considerable increase in profit and sales this year," chief executive Nicolas Hayek told a news conference.

SMH (STE Suisse Microelectronique et d'Horlogerie S.A.) said sales in the first four months of 1993 were about 16 per cent

higher than a year ago, with profits rising more strongly.

The company's core business remains watches, but it is branching into other activities, such as mobiles, telephones and paging devices. It also has plans for a new environmentally friendly city car, called the Swatch car.

German car giant Volkswagen A.G. (V.W.) was involved in the project until it dropped out in January due to cuts in its investment programme, and now SMH is looking for a replacement.

Mr. Hayek said SMH was negotiating with two car manufacturers and he hoped to say by the end of 1992 which replace V.W. He declined to name them, but said neither was Asian.

"We want a partner who won't question everything we've done

so far... we believe the car can be ready in 1996," he said.

SMH has put 20 million francs (\$14 million) so far in the project to make a two-seater car powered by an electric engine or a hybrid engine that switches between electricity and petrol.

Mr. Hayek said the car would be built in Europe though an assembly plant might be set up later in the United States.

He said his company's cash reserves had risen to more than 800 million francs (\$560 million) by the end of May and might exceed one billion francs (\$700 million) by the end of the year.

But he stressed SMH had no plans for a major acquisition, preferring to invest internally in new products and factories.

Accord with Egypt eludes World Bank, IMF

CAIRO (R) — A joint negotiating team from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank left Cairo last Saturday after two weeks of talks and economists said dialogue would continue either with further visits or by phone.

The IMF wants to engage Egypt in a two to three year agreement that would fix further fiscal deficit targets and cover revenue gathering measures such as sales and income tax.

Egypt's stand-by facility with the IMF ran out at the end of last month and it needs a new agreement to qualify for nearly \$4 billion of debt forgiveness from Western creditors.

The bank and the fund, trying to make Egypt's two-year shift towards a free market economy irreversible by engaging it in new reform programmes, are arguing that structural reforms, privatisation and trade liberalisation should speed up.

But Cairo is resisting their pressures, saying it must implement the reforms at its own pace and soften the impact wherever possible to avoid social upheavals among the millions of Egyptians on the breadline.

The economists said the delay would not jeopardise the debt forgiveness. The IMF would brief Paris Club creditors who would simply put off discussing it.

"The forgiveness is just a formality, the next tranche of debt is not 'hot'," said one economist.

Western creditors have pledged 50 per cent debt forgiveness at least \$10 billion — in three stages if Egypt carries out IMF reforms. They granted 15 per cent when the first agreements were signed in 1991 and have promised another 15 per cent when the second set of agreements are signed and a final 20 per cent at

the end of the second stage. The two sides have been in constant high-level contact for two months. A joint IMF and World Bank team left Cairo last Saturday after two weeks of talks and economists said dialogue would continue either with further visits or by phone.

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Image of spendthrift east Germans untrue, Bundesbank report says

FRANKFURT (AFP) — The popular image of east Germans believed by many west Germans — that the "Ossis" (easterners) are silly spendthrifts, throwing money away on cars and consumer toys — is simply untrue, according to the latest Bundesbank report.

In fact, east Germans are fantastic savers, stashing money away in mortgage and home improvement plans in order to invest in land and property, in true "Wessis" (westerners) style, the report has revealed.

Despite fast-rising unemployment, the savings of east Germans rose by around 58 per cent in only two and a half years, the central bank's monthly report said.

When East Germany adopted the Deutsche mark on July 1 1990, the average household in the region had savings of 20,000 marks (\$12,500).

This rose to around 30,000 marks (\$18,750) by the end of 1992, it said.

Around 276 billion marks were put away in savings in all of Germany last year, a rise of seven per cent over 1991, it said.

This was mainly due to the big boost in east Germany, where

savers are squirrelling away as much money as possible in order to gain quicker access to bank loans to buy new homes or refurbish an apartment.

Normally a bank in Germany requires an applicant to save regularly for at least five years before it gives out a big loan at preferential rates.

But east Germans are rushing to use a so-called "fast track" approach, in which they put down between 40 and 50 per cent of the target sum immediately, and pay the rest within two to three years.

However, east German savings, at 190 billion marks, represent only 2.2 per cent, of total German savings of 3,600 billion marks, it said.

East Germans account for about a fifth of Germany's population of 80 million. But unemployment in the region affects about one in three, if phenomena such as short-time working, early retirement and job retraining are taken into account. Joblessness was negligible three years ago.

Investment in Germany rose by 27 billion marks last year to reach 318 billion marks, mainly because banks lent more to east German entrepreneurs, the Bundesbank said.

Daimler sees way out of its troubles next year

STUTTGART, Germany (R) — Daimler-Benz A.G. faces deep difficulties as the German economy turns down but the country's biggest industrial concern expects business to start recovering next year, management board chairman Edzard Reuter has said.

The company... finds itself in a difficult phase of its development," he told the annual shareholders meeting.

In the first four months of 1993, group turnover fell almost 20 per cent, reaching barely 26 billion marks (\$16 billion).

Business developments at the Mercedes-Benz A.G. car division — which normally makes up two-thirds of Daimler's sales — were the main cause of the fall. There were also smaller downturns at planemaker Deutsche Aerospace and its electronics unit AEG A.G.

The group had had to reduce its workforce by 18,000 last year

to a total of 376,000 and would have to cut a further 15,000 jobs in 1993. Nevertheless, Daimler believed a turnaround would begin next year, Mr. Reuter said.

Despite the downturn, Daimler hoped to be able to pay an unchanged dividend of 13 marks (\$7.99) a share on 1993 results.

The chairman saw a chance for an improvement in business in the rest of this year compared to the first quarter of 1993, when group net profits fell by a massive 95 per cent to just 20 million marks (\$12.2 million).

That would not be a result of an economic upturn, but of the hoped-for sales success of the new Mercedes compact C-class car range and also because one-off financial charges would not recur. He did not doubt the C-class, which goes on sale this month replacing the 190, would be an "unusual success".

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LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at mid-session on the London Foreign Exchange and bullion markets Friday.

U.S. \$100 costs	1.2783/88	Canadian dollar	1.5972/82
	1.7915/20	Deutschemarks	1.4275/85
	32.83/85	Dutch guilders	32.83/85
	5.3800/50	Swiss francs	1459/1462
	106.85/90	Belgian francs	6.1200/1300
	7.2000/2100	French francs	\$1.5430/40
	6.7750/7850	Italian lire	\$376.50/377.25
	6.1200/1300	Japanese yen	
One sterling		Swedish crowns	
One ounce of gold		Norwegian crowns	
		Danish crowns	

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Sihanouk cancels faction meeting citing illness

PHNOM PENH (R) — Prince Norodom Sihanouk, after his abortive attempt to set up a coalition government, has called off a meeting of rival Cambodian factions citing ill health, a U.N. official said Friday.

Three factions were due to meet under Prince Sihanouk's chairmanship in Phnom Penh Saturday to discuss crucial details of political transition after U.N.-run elections won by the royalist opposition.

"The prince is taken ill," said the U.N. official, who asked not to be identified.

The head of state's illness comes after he attempted Thursday to set up a coalition government uniting the victorious Royalist Party led by his son Prince Norodom Ranariddh and the incumbent Vietnamese-installed government.

The Hanoi-backed Cambodia People's Party (CPP) claimed election fraud and warned of violent insurrection when it became clear it was losing the vote count.

Prince Ranariddh never publicly approved his father's plan and Prince Sihanouk announced Friday that he was shelving the idea, which would have given all the country's top posts including control of the armed forces.

The factional meeting was to have involved the Royalist Party, the Phnom Penh government and another opposition faction.

Prince Sihanouk's sudden declaration that he was to form a government upset the Royalist FUNCINPEC. Royalist officials

said it disrupted the democratic process that Cambodians had sacrificed so much for.

His equally abrupt about face left the 14-year-old Phnom Penh government smarting as it reluctantly took up again the administration of the 80 per cent of Cambodia it controls.

"We are not happy," General Pan Thai, chief spokesman for Phnom Penh's armed forces, said Friday. "We need Prince Sihanouk. We support a new government like yesterday, but it seems Prince (Norodom) Ranariddh does not accept the proposal."

Phnom Penh Prime Minister Hun Sen and Prince Ranariddh, leader of the Royalist FUNCINPEC Party, were designated deputy prime ministers in the still-born government, announced before the final vote count was in.

FUNCINPEC had spoken of including the radical Khmer Rouge faction in a coalition government, but had given up that goal, said the CPP, itself violently opposed to the idea.

Analysts said excluding the Maoists who hold sway over a fifth of the country and favouring its Hanoi-installed enemies meant a return to Cambodia's 13-year habit of civil war.

With virtually all the ballots counted Friday in elections organised by the United Nations after 14 months of fragile ceasefires, FUNCINPEC had 45.3 per cent of the vote and the CPP 38.7 per cent, U.N. officials said.

Under the original Paris peace plan signed in 1991 by all factions, voting would lead to forma-

tion of a National Assembly which would spend up to three months writing a new constitution. Only then would a new government be formed.

Many including staunch supporters of FUNCINPEC, a French acronym for National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful and Cooperative Cambodia, have said Prince Sihanouk's move amounts to a constitutional coup.

Officials in FUNCINPEC, headed by Prince Sihanouk himself until he became neutral head of state in 1991, said Prince Ranariddh had accepted his father's government but had suggested a cabinet should not be formed until after the election results.

He also objected to sharing power with certain Phnom Penh figures whom he linked with the killing of FUNCINPEC activists during the election campaign, the party officials said.

Prince Sihanouk said by pulling the two main contenders together he had been trying to stave off new fighting. That became a real possibility when the CPP, seeing they were trailing their rivals in the vote count, threatened not to accept the result.

U.N. spokesman Eric Falt said efforts to establish order in the vacuum before a government can be formed would be stepped up.

He said the Phnom Penh government was capable of keeping its armed forces and police from causing trouble.

"I'm not so sure of that," a government official said.



A young woman, holding her two children, is evacuated aboard a rescue plane from Tivarcheli in the breakaway Republic of Abkhazia (AFP photo)

Fighting in Abkhazia stops relief flights

TBILISI, Georgia (AP) — Fighting between Abkhaz separatists and Georgian troops left more than a dozen people dead and halted humanitarian aid shipments to a besieged city, Georgian sources said.

The fiercest fighting was reported near the Black Sea coastal village of Kindi, where 13 people were killed, according to regional official Georgi Gilsikiriya.

He said Abkhazian militants killed two Georgian soldiers in an offensive that began Wednesday night, and 11 people died in subsequent fighting, including four who were run over by an armoured personnel carrier.

Abkhazia is a former resort area in northwest Georgia between the Black Sea and the Caucasus Mountains. More than 1,000 people have been killed since the region declared independence last July and Georgia sent in thousands of troops.

Separatist forces have managed to hold about one-third of Georgia, which covers a total of 8,600 square kilometres (3,320 square miles), about the size of Cyprus.

Georgia accuses Russia of interfering in the civil war to aid the Abkhazians. Russia denies it. A ceasefire agreement was reached on May 14 between Russian President Boris Yeltsin and Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze, but it quickly fell apart. Georgia and Abkhazia have blamed each other for violating it.

Georgian military officials said Thursday that separatist attacks had killed about 50 people in the past week. In apparent retaliation, Georgia cut off a Russian airlift of humanitarian aid to the Abkhazian-held city of Tivarcheli.

On Wednesday, four Russian helicopters had brought about eight tonnes of food and medicine to Tivarcheli and took out 106 civilian refugees.

Clinton drops civil rights nomination in new setback

WASHINGTON (AP) — In a move that enraged the civil rights community, President Bill Clinton withdrew the nomination of black law Professor Lani Guinier as his civil rights enforcer, Prof. Guinier insisted Friday "I could have been confirmed."

Prof. Guinier said that Mr. Clinton, a friend for two decades, believed her hearings would have been racially divisive.

Critics had focused on her legal writings for allegedly advocating a minority "veto" over political decisions crucial to minorities, undermining the concept of democratic majority rule.

Mr. Clinton withdrew her nomination late Thursday, saying her views would have been "very difficult to defend" against Senate critics.

Prof. Guinier, interviewed on NBC, said Mr. Clinton told her in their meeting "that a Senate confirmation hearing would have

been divisive and potentially inflammatory ... I disagreed with the president on that ... but I do agree that the last thing we need in this country is a discussion of race that polarises people."

In abandoning her nomination, Mr. Clinton conceded he had not read her legal writings.

Even so, Prof. Guinier said, "I do believe that I could have been confirmed and that I would have been an assistant attorney general for civil rights who would have made the president and the people of the United States proud."

Mr. Clinton's withdrawal of the nomination, the latest crisis in his beleaguered presidency, drew angry outcries from the civil rights community.

"I'm convinced that the administration has taken a giant step backward," said Kwesi Mfume, the Democrat who chairs the congressional Black Caucus.

Kravchuk reaffirms Ukraine's non-nuclear pledge

KIEV (R) — President Leonid Kravchuk reaffirmed Friday that Ukraine was committed to ridding itself of nuclear weapons after his prime minister called for retention of some missiles, at least temporarily.

Mr. Kravchuk told visiting Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev that Ukraine's policy in favour of ratifying the START-I accord and signing the Non-Proliferation Treaty as a non-nuclear state was unchanged.

The Ukrainian parliament ended two days of debate on the ratification of two key disarmament treaties Friday, postponing further discussion until later in the month.

Deputies leaving a closed session of parliament told reporters it had voted overwhelmingly to ask parliamentary commissions to study documents concerning the START-I and non-proliferation treaties (NPT).

The session was thrown into turmoil by Prime Minister Leonid Kuchma's appeal Thursday for Ukraine to retain some former Soviet nuclear missiles temporarily.

But President Kravchuk reaffirmed Ukraine's intention of approving both pacts in talks with Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev Friday.

form of temporary nuclear status for the former Soviet republic pending negotiations with the nuclear powers on providing Kiev with security guarantees and substantial compensation.

"As you know, yesterday our parliament began its discussion of START. And as everywhere else in the world, members of parliament have varied opinions," Mr. Kravchuk told Mr. Kozyrev before beginning more than an hour of talks.

"And what is the official position of the (Ukrainian) leadership?" Mr. Kozyrev asked the president during the conversation, attended by reporters.

"You know our position. Our position is clear," Mr. Kravchuk answered.

Mr. Kozyrev later told reporters he was satisfied that Mr. Kuchma's statement did not represent official Ukrainian policy.

"It has been explained to me that Mr. Kuchma was speaking in a private capacity, as a deputy rather than prime minister," he said before flying off to visit the headquarters of the Black Sea Fleet in the Crimea.

Yeltsin faces hard choice after assembly

MOSCOW (R) — President Boris Yeltsin will have cleared only the first hurdle in his race to a new constitution if a special assembly, convening Saturday, agrees a final draft.

The next task is to give it the force of law. Hardliners insist that under the constitution only the top legislature, the congress of People's Deputies, may adopt a new constitution, Mr. Yeltsin, who has only contempt for Congress, sees four possible paths:

1. Congress yields and passes the draft on a nod, without debate.
2. The president forces a referendum. This, if the draft is passed overall, would raise a question over the status of any regions rejecting the draft. Detractors say it could threaten the Russian federation with disintegration.

3. The assembly imposes on parliament by some means a law calling new parliamentary elections. The newly constituted parliament would then debate and pass the constitution. The danger for Mr. Yeltsin here is that the new legislature might be as hostile to the president as the present one.

4. National elections are held for a Constituent Assembly whose only task would be to consider the draft and approve it. Its job done, it would then be dissolved and elections to new state organs called. The final elections under this plan would be the third round this year, following April's referendum and the polls for the Constituent Assembly. Sheer political weariness among the population could weaken Mr. Yeltsin's position.

Mr. Yeltsin could yet choose a fifth path, despite his insistence it does not figure in his plans.

With the agreement of regional leaders recently invited to Saturday's meeting, he could issue a decree transforming the assembly directly into a full Constituent Assembly with powers to adopt the constitution.

That would strictly speaking be illegal and draw furious protest from parliament. But if Mr. Yeltsin feels himself strong enough, the temptation to take that path may be great.

Meanwhile the conservative-dominated Russian parliament moved Friday to protect rebel Vice-President Alexander Rutskoi who is in open opposition to President Yeltsin.

Deputies voted overwhelmingly to ask the Constitutional Court to rule whether Mr. Yeltsin's recent moves to humiliate Mr. Rutskoi — taking away his car, most of his staff and bodyguards — corresponded to the basic law now in force.

Deputies said in a letter to the court that such actions "infringed the dignity of the vice-president and belittled his constitutional status."

They also instructed the parliamentary Legislation Committee to work out a separate law on the post of vice-president.

Mr. Rutskoi has been rallying opposition against the president since a final break with him in April. Earlier this week he accused Mr. Yeltsin of lying.

Mr. Yeltsin has stripped Mr. Rutskoi of all his duties and made it effectively impossible for the vice-president to operate in his Kremlin office.

10 die in Chechen clash

MOSCOW (AP) — Forces loyal to the leader of the self-proclaimed Republic of Chechnya ousted opposition sympathisers Friday from two buildings in the capital of Grozny, news reports said.

Opposition leaders said 10 people died, while a spokesman for Chechen leader Dzhokhar Dudayev put the death toll at three, the Interfax News Agency said.

Interfax said Gen. Dudayev's "special units" fired on City Hall and Police Headquarters in the Caucasus city with a howitzer and a tank. More than 60 people were arrested, Dudayev spokesman Movladi Udugov told Interfax.

Mr. Udugov was quoted as saying the units "assumed control of the buildings by force after futile attempts to vacate them by peaceful means."

Thousands of opposition sympathisers massed in Grozny's Theatre Square after the attack. Interfax said, quoting opposition leader Ganga Elmurzayeva as saying Gen. Dudayev's forces had the square "virtually blocked off."

Mr. Elmurzayeva is on the coordinating council of the Daimokh (Fatherland) Movement. Dudayev's nephew was shot to death and several people were wounded in a demonstration last week, and on Monday Gen. Dudayev said someone tried to assassinate him during an opposition rally.

The Chechens are one of the fiercest groups in a region populated by the descendants of ancient warrior cultures, and their homeland is famed for blood feuds, guerrilla fighters and a fearsome mafia with tentacles extending into the West.

The power struggle in the volatile, mountainous region of southern Russia has become increasingly violent. Gen. Dudayev's forces were shot to death and several people were wounded in a demonstration last week, and on Monday Gen. Dudayev said someone tried to assassinate him during an opposition rally.

Interfax said that among those killed Friday was a man shot when gunmen fired on demonstrators in the square from a passing car.

Gen. Dudayev's opponents have been demonstrating in Theatre Square since April, trying to force the flamboyant fighter pilot to resign as leader of the oil-rich region about 1,500 kilometres (950 miles) south of Moscow.

Gen. Dudayev, 49, ignited the potentially explosive power struggle in Grozny in April by trying to impose one-man rule and dissolve parliament. A Chechen court has ruled his move illegal.

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Japanese rush to buy wedding commemorative coins

TOKYO (AFP) — Long queues formed outside banks as the Japanese waited anxiously to buy coins commemorating next week's royal wedding. "We had 500 coins. We had sold out in 10 minutes," said an employee at Sakura Bank of Tokyo, outside which more than 350 people had gathered to wait for the counters to open. Five million silver coins worth 5,000 yen (\$47) each and 30 million copper coins worth 500 yen (about \$5) issued by the Finance Ministry went on sale Friday morning in banks and post offices across the country. Two million gold coins worth 50,000 yen each are to go on sale on Sept. 9, exactly three months after the wedding of Crown Prince Naruhito to former diplomat Masako Owada next Wednesday. The coins carry the imperial emblems of the Chrysanthemum throne.

Photo buffs can stroll through giant camera

PARIS (AP) — If you want to be in the camera's eye, you get your chance this weekend. Step right in. A giant camera — 12 metres (more than 39 feet) high — is set up on the Champs Elysees opposite the Eiffel Tower for anyone wanting to peep inside the lens. The replica of a vintage camera, the symbol of Paris' three-day Photofête Fete starting Friday, is designed to help people understand the art of photography from the inside out. The tour of the camera is one of several events in the capital aimed at helping young and old appreciate photography. In montmarne, you can actually become a photographer or a photographer's model, with material available at six points. The photos will then be part of an exhibition at the local town hall. For photo buffs less than 13 years old, you can compete for a prize for best picture of the Paris rooftops, taken from the Samaritaine Department Store's upper terrace.

Airline putting electronic games on planes

TOKYO (AP) — First- and business-class passengers on some Japan Airlines (JAL) flights soon will find their seats equipped with electronic game machines, the airline said. They can play various games provided with the machines, or bring their own software discs as long as they were developed by Sega Enterprises Ltd., a leading Japanese maker of amusement equipment, the airline added. JAL, Japan's largest airline, and JAL jointly developed the machine. JAL spokesman Yoshihiko Kozu said, but he declined to specify development costs. The game machines first will appear on JAL flights to London and New York on July 1, he said. "More passengers now enjoy games or watch movies individually," rather than in a group, he added. The machines use 5-inch liquid crystal television sets installed in the seats, Kozu said. He said JAL had tested the machines to ensure they would not interfere with the planes' communications and electronic navigation devices.

Russian manuscript, saved from shredder, to be auctioned

LONDON (AP) — A Russian religious manuscript, rescued from a Helsinki recycling plant 25 years ago, is expected to sell for \$28,000 to \$12,000 (\$12,300 to \$18,500) at auction, Sotheby's said. The manuscript was about to be shredded when the plant's owner spotted its elaborate red leather and gilt binding in a package of waste paper, the London auctioneers said in a statement. The owner kept it, and 25 years later, showed it to Sotheby's expert on Russian art, Ivan Samarin, the statement said. "The manuscript is a bizarre religious text of the old believers, they were an obscure sect who split from the Russian Orthodox Church in the 17th century and went off to found isolated communities in the forest," Mr. Samarin said. "The schism occurred when the Orthodox Church adopted reforms which the old believers refused to accept. They saw the reforms as insults to the traditional rituals of the church. God, they believed, must have abandoned them and an apocalypse would surely follow." The manuscript depicts the apocalypse of St. John the Divine, Sotheby's said. It is full of vivid hand-painted scenes of many-headed dragons, moons turning to blood and stars and cities tumbling from the sky. Sotheby's said the manuscript bears the library stamp of Vikar Morozov. The Morozov family were distinguished adherents of the old belief and ran a financial empire based on the manufacture of silk ribbons.

Germany holds more arson suspects

BONN (R) — German police have arrested three more skinhead suspects in connection with the Solingen arson attack which killed five Turks at the weekend, security officials said Friday.

The officials said Federal Prosecutor Alexander Von Stahl told a closed-door parliamentary committee meeting that three active right-wing extremists had been arrested on suspicion of setting fire to the Turks' house Saturday.

Police are already holding a 16-year-old boy from Solingen who they believe started the fire. The officials, who asked not to be named, said the three suspects were 16, 19 and 23 years old, had been planning an attack on foreigners for a while and were drunk at the time.

Mr. Stahl's office in Karlsruhe, which Tuesday had to retract an earlier statement that four skinheads were being sought as accomplices to the crime, declined any comment before a rare press conference set for Saturday morning.

"For the time being no statements to the press will be made in this matter," it said in a statement faxed to journalists even before the reports of the new arrest surfaced.

Chancellor Helmut Kohl has argued the Solingen attack was the work of a single disturbed youth, but President Richard von Weizsäcker strongly disputed this Thursday in his speech at funeral services for the five murdered Turks.

"The murders of Moelln and Solingen are not unrelated isolated atrocities. They spring from a climate generated by the extreme right," he said, referring also to the arson attack in Moelln last November in which three Turks were killed.

"Extreme right-wing violence, however mindless it might appear, is politically motivated. It has increased," the president said.

"It is an anarchist terrorism of a special type which seeks de-

fenceless victims in order to hit the democratic state. Mr. Kohl, who did not attend the funeral service in Cologne despite appeals from Turkish community leaders and many Bonn politicians to do so, had a meeting Friday with senior Turkish officials who came to Germany for the service.

An opinion poll for RTL Television said 62 per cent of those surveyed felt he should have attended the service.

Reflecting political differences on the issue, it said 78 per cent of the opposition Social Democrats polled criticised him for staying away from the ceremony while only 46 per cent of Mr. Kohl's own Christian Democrat voters wanted him to attend.

Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel, who just after the Solingen attack argued against the Turkish community's demand for dual citizenship, dropped his doubts and came out clearly for extending nationality rights to long-term foreign residents.

Backed into a corner over its refusal to allow U.N. inspectors to check out two suspected nuclear weapons sites, Pyongyang unexpectedly called on May 25 for talks with the South to discuss pending inter-Korean issues.

At first taken aback by the offer, South Korea agreed in principle to the proposal, but insisted the bitter dispute over North Korea's nuclear programme be settled first.

That has now been rejected by Pyongyang, and the Southern spokesman said it was very unlikely South Korea would accept the North's offer on the current terms.

Mr. Espina Thursday met political and business leaders to try to build a consensus in Congress to swear him in and presumably to put an end to the charges against him.

"This is nothing short of complete and utter chaos. The same old political mafias are cutting deals behind closed doors," one diplomat said.

Guatemalan army 'will not' take power

GUATEMALA CITY (R) — The army has distanced itself from Guatemala's messy political struggle and said it had no intention of taking power as public opposition mounted to Vice President Gustavo Espina's bid to replace ousted President Jorge Serrano.

"The political game allowed by the democratic system is the responsibility of the political sector," said Navy Captain Julio Alberto Yon, the military spokesman.

"At no moment does the army intend to exercise power in the country," he said.

As he spoke, more than 3,000 people, mainly students, marched to the National Palace to protest that the power shifts of the past days were a frolic for military rule.

It was the biggest demonstra-

tion since Guatemala's crisis began when Mr. Serrano suspended the constitution, dissolved Congress and began ruling by decree on May 25.

Capt. Yon's position appeared to mark a shift from Wednesday, when Defence Minister Jose Garcia Samayoa said the army was backing Vice President Gustavo Espina to replace Mr. Serrano.

"The Guatemalan army supports constitutional institutions. We are not mentioning names of people, just institutions," Capt. Yon said when asked if the army still supported Mr. Espina.

Mr. Espina declared himself president Wednesday, the day after the military engineered Mr. Serrano's ouster, ending Mr. Serrano's week-long near-dictatorial rule.

Mr. Espina's position was already weakened by his failure to find enough support in Con-

gress for his swearing-in and by legal proceedings against him by the attorney general for supporting Mr. Serrano in his seizure of unconstitutional powers.

"It's not possible that one of the people who broke the constitution becomes president. That's ridiculous," Attorney General Edgar Tuna told Reuters, adding that the Supreme Court had put the case against Mr. Espina in the hands of the Congress.

Mr. Espina Thursday met political and business leaders to try to build a consensus in Congress to swear him in and presumably to put an end to the charges against him.

"This is nothing short of complete and utter chaos. The same old political mafias are cutting deals behind closed doors," one diplomat said.

But President Kravchuk reaffirmed Ukraine's intention of approving both pacts in talks with Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev Friday.

Deputies said a majority of speakers called for START-I to be considered separately from NPT.

This was an indication that parliament could proclaim some

Sonic, Suns clash in game 7 today

SEATTLE (AP) — The Seattle SuperSonics shattered Charles Barkley and Dan Majerle Thursday night, beating the Suns 118-102 and forcing a game 7 of the Western Conference finals in Phoenix.

Barkley, who scored 43 points in game 5 Tuesday night, was limited to 13 points on 4-of-14 shooting. Majerle, also a hero in that Phoenix victory with 34 points and eight 3-pointers, was held to 12 points and one 3-point on 4-of-11 shooting.

"(Barkley) didn't have the aggressiveness as high as he did the other night," Seattle's Michael Cage said. "No 3-point bombs from Majerle tonight. We thought we had to extend pressure out on him."

On Thursday night, Seattle's Ricky Pierce scored 27 points and Shawn Kemp had 22 points and 15 rebounds.

With the best-of-7 series tied 3-3, the Sonics and the Suns will play Saturday in Phoenix to decide the winner.

Phoenix is trying to make the NBA finals for the first time since 1976, while Seattle hasn't played in the championship round since 1979.

"If you can't get up for the seventh game, you can't get up at all," Kemp said. "There isn't any pressure at this point. Everyone wants to make it. It's just who wants to win more."

In an emotion-charged game, Kevin Johnson had 22 points for the Sonics, including his team's first 11 of the fourth quarter.

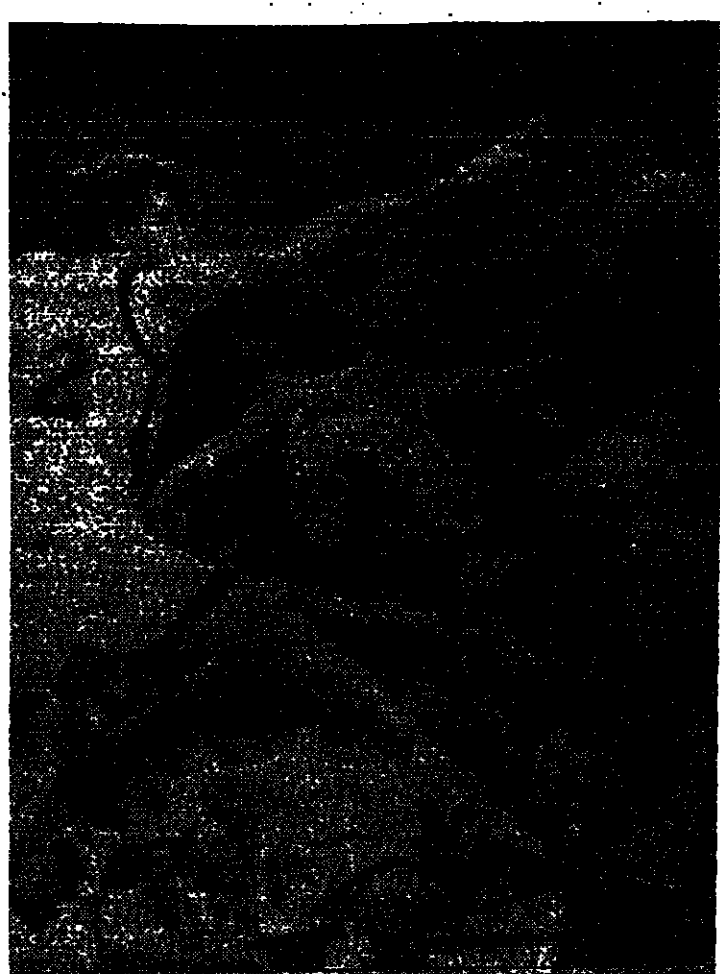
Sam Perkins added 18 points for Seattle, including four 3-pointers, and Derrick McKey and Gary Payton had 16 each.

It was the first time in the series that all five of Seattle's starters scored in double figures.

The game was decided early in the fourth quarter when the Sonics outscored the Suns 11-4 in the first 4:51 for a 97-79 lead with 6:21 to go. Kemp had a pair of baskets in the run.

The Suns got a second-half lift from Cedric Ceballos, who did not play in the first half, then scored eight quick points in the third period. Then he aggravated an injury to his left foot and was carried off the court by teammates Jerrod Mustaf and Frank Johnson just 4:08 into the quarter, with Seattle leading 71-63.

The Suns, who beat the Los Angeles Lakers in five games and San Antonio in six, looked tired and frustrated in the second quarter.



Sonics' Eddie Johnson No. 8 soars up for a layup

ter as Seattle scored five fast-break baskets to lead 61-50 at halftime. The Sonics scored 19 of their first-half points off 11 turnovers.

Pierce scored seven of his nine first-quarter points in a 13-4 run that gave Seattle a 21-12 lead, but the Suns responded with an 8-0 run of their own.

New York has hard road to win Eastern Conference finals

While the two-time champion Chicago Bulls have the distractions, the New York Knicks have the hard road to win the Eastern Conference finals.

Having lost the home-court advantage in Wednesday night's 97-94 defeat in New York, the Knicks must win Friday night in Chicago Stadium to force a seventh game at Madison Square Garden Sunday.

Otherwise, the Bulls will advance to the NBA finals with a change to become the third team in league history to win three straight championships.

SPORTS NEWS IN BRIEF

Group D World Cup qualifying round begins today

SEOUL (AP) — The second round of World Cup soccer Asia Group D qualifications begins Saturday in Seoul with an opening match between Bahrain and Lebanon. Sports officials here predicted South Korea will easily qualify for the next round as it seeks a third straight slot in World Cup finals next year for the first time as an Asian nation. In the first round in Lebanon, South Korea finished at the top of the five-team table with three wins and one draw. Hong Kong was second with a 2-1-1 record, followed by Bahrain's 1-2-1. Lebanon and India were almost disqualified with no wins.

Hoddle moves from Swindon to Chelsea

LONDON (AP) — Four days after guiding Swindon to English soccer's Premier League, Glenn Hoddle Friday joined Chelsea as manager. Reports say the 35-year-old former England star also may register as a player. Capped 53 times by his country, the stylish former Tottenham and Manchester United midfielder scored the first goal as Swindon reached the top flight Monday with a 4-3 victory over Leicester in the division one playoff at Wembley. Next season, his new club will be

playing against his former team. Hoddle has gained a reputation of promoting attractive soccer and said his decision to leave Swindon was "hard and emotional."

Ukraine wins in European basketball

WROCLAW, Poland (AP) — Ukraine defeated Belarus and Croatia rolled over Latvia in the first semifinal Thursday of the European Basketball Championship qualifying tournament. The fifth day of the round-robin play also brought confirmation from the International Basketball Federation that Yugoslavia, the defending European champion, will not be allowed to participate in the finals opening June 23 in Germany. Five teams from the tournament will qualify for the finals.

American fails to swim from Cuba to U.S.

MIAMI (AP) — An American environmentalist trying to swim from Cuba to the United States was pulled from the sea Thursday after he encountered strong winds and currents. Skip Storch, a 35-year-old from New York state, was cheered on by Cuban President Fidel Castro when he left Havana on Wednesday.

Final French soccer standings

Team	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Marseille	38	23	9	6	72	36	55
Paris-SG	38	20	11	7	61	29	51
Monaco	38	21	9	8	56	29	51
Bordeaux	38	18	12	8	42	25	48
Nantes	38	17	11	10	54	39	45
Nancy	38	18	7	13	57	44	42
Amiens	38	13	17	8	34	26	43
Saint-Etienne	38	12	16	10	58	57	40
Strasbourg	38	12	16	10	36	41	40
Le Mans	38	12	12	14	36	41	36
Montpellier	38	13	9	16	55	54	35
Angers	38	11	13	14	44	45	35
Metz	38	9	16	13	36	45	34
Evry	38	9	15	14	40	45	33
Le Havre	38	11	11	16	42	53	33
Reims	38	11	10	17	33	50	32
Chaux	38	7	16	15	26	48	29
Limoges	38	9	11	18	42	57	29
Toulouse	38	6	13	19	31	57	25
Nice	38	3	16	19	32	66	22

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Courier downs Krajicek; Graf reclaims No. 1 spot

Fernandez style change pays off

PARIS (Agencies) — Jim Courier moved to within one match of his third straight French Open title, blasting service returns and passing shots past net-charging Richard Krajicek to win their semifinal Friday in four sets.

Courier, the strong favorite here despite his No. 2 seeding, was in control for all but a few moments of his 6-1, 6-7 (7-2), 7-5, 6-2 victory.

He will play for the title Sunday against the winner of the second semifinal between 10th-seeded Sergi Bruguera of Spain and No. 11 Andrei Medvedev of Ukraine, two baseline players seeking their first berth in a Grand Slam final.

Courier was so dominant and Krajicek so uncomfortable in the first set that an embarrassing rout appeared likely. But the 6-foot-5 (1.96-metre) Dutchman, determined to stick with his serve-and-volley tactics, began volleying better in the second set and succeeded briefly in animating the centre-court crowd.

Even though Krajicek hit 10 aces in the match, Courier was able to get the service breaks he needed — two in the third set and two in the fourth. Eleven times he fired back service returns for winners, 13 times he scored on passing shots as Krajicek reached the net.

Krajicek also has a few deadly service returns. One in the third set was so powerful that Courier watched it fly by, then bowed in mock awe to his rival.

On the women's side, a radical change of playing style paid off spectacularly for Mary Joe Fernandez who reached her first ever French Open final Friday.

Arantza Sanchez-Vicario, the most successful women's circuit player this season, had no answer to the new, aggressive Fernandez. She was blasted off court 6-2, 6-2 in their semi-final.

Meanwhile, Steffi Graf recaptured her world No. 1 status by reaching the women's singles final and then said she couldn't care less.

"All that counts is being in the final," she said, after overwhelm-

ing teenage compatriot Anne Huber for the loss of only two games.

"The ranking doesn't matter at all," Graf, who beat Anke Huber 6-1, 6-1, was the only favourite to survive on a bleak day of grey skies and surprises. She will now play Fernandez for the title she won back in 1987 and 1988.

Fernandez, who now plays the biggest match of her career Saturday said she was inspired by her fightback from 1-6, 1-5 down to beat Gabriela Sabatini in the quarter final.

"I started off the way I was finishing my last match," Fernandez said. "Right from the start I decided that was the way I had to play."

Fernandez has been in the top 10 for the last three years, briefly rising to number four in 1990. But her baseline style never seriously threatened to lift her to the very top level occupied by Graf, Monica Seles, Martina Navratilova and, lately, Sanchez.

Under the guidance of coach Harold Solomon, Fernandez set out last year to rebuild her game. She accepts she was stuck in a defensive style learnt in childhood when Chris Evert was the model for every young American girl with ambitions in tennis.

"Since I was a little girl, I was taught you've got to hit the ball back and not make many mistakes — it takes a long time to change that," admitted Fernandez, who was born in the Dominican Republic but brought up in Florida.

"Harold showed me how the top players and why they win. He convinced me that if I wanted to make the breakthrough this was the way to go. My old game style wasn't really going to let me do that — he just drilled it into my head and asked me to take a chance."

Solomon, a singles finalist here in 1976, has been surprised by how quickly Fernandez has adapted her game.

"When we set last year I told her that I thought it would take her three years to become a



Richard Krajicek goes for a forehand in his match against Jim Courier Friday (AFP photo)

top three player and be in a position to win Grand Slams.

"But I watched her practicing this morning and she was hitting the ball the best she ever has. So I told her — now you are ready."

Asked about that remark, Fernandez replied: "I believe him."

Solomon has not only worked on Fernandez on court. He has also hired Jim Courier's trainer Pat Etcheberry to build up his slender student's upper body strength.

"She probably needs about another seven pounds of muscle before she has got the strength to match the top players week-in-week-out," Solomon said.

Graf admitted that the extent to which Fernandez went for her shots against Sabatini had surprised her. "I have never seen her doing it that much. She stepped into the ball and was going a lot for the lines and she did it very well. The way she's playing, she shows a lot of confidence."

"Graf, who had never lost a set to 18-year-old Huber in five pre-

vious encounters before their clash, once again played faultless tennis.

But she has made it clear from the start that rankings would be "meaningless" until her great rival Monica Seles returns to the tour.

Graf, who has played in five of the last six finals here, said: "I don't think Anke played up to her best today. But she was playing in her first Grand Slam semi-final and that puts you under a lot of pressure."

Graf has now won 72 of the 109 tournaments she has played since 1986, and against Fernandez she will be bidding to win a 12th Grand Slam singles crown.

Medvedev may pose biggest threat to Courier's reign

Joining two-time defending champion Jim Courier in the French Open semifinals are a trio

of lower seeds each hoping to reach their first Grand Slam title match.

Of the three contenders, 18-year-old Andrei Medvedev could be the strongest challenge, even though playing only his third Grand Slam event. He easily dismantled Stefan Edberg's serve-and-volley game in a four-set quarterfinal victory.

Bruguera put out world No. 1 Pete Sampras on Wednesday. Medvedev, who won the French Open junior title two years ago and made the fourth round last year, has developed into a rising star, especially on clay. The Ukrainian has won five titles on the surface, two this year, and has beaten Bruguera six times they met on clay.

Medvedev outplayed Edberg with delicate lobs and blistering passing shots. He won the first set in 16 minutes before rain halted play Wednesday, and completed a 6-0, 6-7 (4-7), 7-5, 6-4 victory Thursday.

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GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF
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ANSWERS TO WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

- Q.1—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠Void ♠Q842 ♠AJ1074 ♠K643
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ 1 NT ?
What action do you take?
A.—Because of the misfit, you probably don't have game anywhere. Still, richer rewards could be available by defending, and the way to advise partner that the hand belongs to you is to double. That's primarily for penalties, but partner is free to pull it if he deems that to be the right action.
- Q.2—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠Q63 ♠A ♠Q973 ♠AQ985
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ 1 ♠ 1 ♠ Pass ?
What do you bid now?
A.—This hand is a bit too weak for a reverse to two diamonds. Therefore, your choices lie between a rebid of two clubs to show your five-card minor or a raise to two spades. Despite only three-card support, we think the latter is clear-cut.
- Q.3—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠J8 ♠A1097 ♠A ♠AKJ543
Your right-hand opponent opens the bidding with one diamond. What action do you take?
A.—While we don't mind overcalling with sound values, we think this hand is simply too good for two clubs. Our choice would be to double, intending to bid clubs over partner's likely spade response.
- Q.4—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠J6 ♠10 ♠AKQ7653 ♠A87
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass ?
What do you bid now?
A.—In the modern style, you need to meet one of two criteria for a jump shift: Support for partner's suit, or a self-sufficient suit of your own. Your side-suit ace and solid diamonds make this hand ideal for a jump shift to three diamonds.
- Q.5—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠Void ♠AK985 ♠K6 ♠AQJ87
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ 1 ♠ 1 ♠ Pass ?
What do you bid now?
A.—Your void in partner's suit is a flaw, but you are too rich in playing strength to risk getting passed out at two clubs. Since you need so little from partner to make game, jump shift to three clubs.
- Q.6—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠K864 ♠QJ873 ♠843 ♠7
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ 1 ♠ ?
What action do you take?
A.—No, we are not suggesting you make a penalty double with this hand (your trumps aren't good enough), or that you bid your anemic spades. As is usually the case when the enemy bids your longest suit, pass.

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Egypt says major militant plot foiled

Cairo (AP) — Egypt says it has foiled a Muslim militant plot to assassinate 10 public figures and carry out bomb attacks during the 'Eid al-Adha holiday. Interior Minister Hassan Mohammad Al-Ahram said in an interview Friday 30 militant leaders and their aides were arrested earlier this month in a security sweep in Cairo and five other provinces.

A large cache of arms and explosives was found, he said. "A lot of the terrorist masterminds... were arrested. A similar number of their aids were also detained two weeks before the start (on Monday) of 'Eid al-Adha (feast of sacrifice)," he said.

General Alfi said the group had planned to kill 10 senior political and public figures, blow up vital economic installations and bomb six crowded public squares in Cairo and railway lines during the holiday, one of the most important Islamic festivals. He did not name those targeted but said that after the plot was uncovered a new security strategy was drawn up to protect officials, prominent figures, mosques, churches and key bridges and installations.

Gen. Alfi said the militants belonged to Al Jihad and Al Gama'a al Islamiya (Islamic Group), which are both seeking to topple the government and turn Egypt into an Islamic state. Gen. Alfi told Al-Ahram that the plot had been hatched abroad by Egyptian militants, including Sheikh Omar Abdul Rahman, some of whose alleged followers are implicated in the World Trade Centre bombing in New York.

The suspects also planned to carry out bombings against railroads and other targets in Cairo, the Nile Delta and southern Egypt, he told the press.

The seized material, some of it Soviet-made, was of the type used in Afghanistan, where hundreds of Egyptian fundamentalists fought with the Islamic resistance against the former Soviet occupation, he added.

Apart from Sheikh Abdul Rahman, who has lived in the United States for two years, Egyptian authorities said militants travelling

between Pakistan, Afghanistan and Iran were involved in the plot.

They included Ayman Al-Zawahiri, Mustafa Hamza and Mohammad Shawkil Al-Islambuli, brother of Khaled Al-Islambuli, one of the assassins of President Anwar Sadat in 1981, Gen. Alfi said.

The 30 suspects were arrested two weeks before the 'Eid.

"The case implicating these extremists was submitted to the prosecutor from the state security court," which is charged with preparing the case and presenting it to a military court, he said.

To speed up trials and pass harsher sentences, President Hosni Mubarak last October invoked emergency legislation in force since the Sadat assassination to decree that "terrorist" cases would be transferred from civilian to military courts, where there is no right of appeal.

Bombings carried out in Cairo by suspected fundamentalists have killed 11 people and injured more than 50 this year. In April Information Minister Sawwat Al-Sherif escaped an assassination attempt by fundamentalists.

Gen. Alfi said the leadership-in-exile was issuing orders and financing Egyptian militants to carry out the attacks.

He said the money paid for every militant attack varied between \$20,000 and \$30,000 in addition to monthly fixed wages and expenses for members to buy weapons and explosives locally.

Gen. Alfi alleged the exiled militant leadership was backed by foreign forces, which he did not name. Cairo has accused Sudan, Iran and some private Gulf organisations of financing the fundamentalists.

Gen. Alfi said Egypt had tightened restrictions to control the funding of militant groups following a recent visit by President Mubarak to Gulf Arab states during which he sought their help to stop non-governmental charity organisations from channelling money to radical groups in Egypt.

"We started cooperating with some security networks in countries abroad — in the East and the West — and in the world. We will sign agreements with some countries to extradite terrorists," Gen. Alfi said without elaborating.

Alleged Bush plotters go on trial amid human rights fears

KUWAIT (AP) — Fourteen Iraqis and Kuwaitis go on trial in the state security court Saturday for allegedly plotting to assassinate former U.S. President George Bush, but human rights activists fear the men will not be properly defended.

"As far as we know, they haven't been seen by lawyers... and the investigations were done without legal counsel present although Kuwaiti law entitles a prisoner to a lawyer during investigation," said Aziz Abu Hamad, associate director of Middle East Watch, a New York-based human rights organisation.

"We have documented in the past that the state security police have mistreated prisoners by depriving them of sleep and burning them with cigarette butts," he said in a telephone interview.

Kuwaitis revere Mr. Bush for leading the 33-nation coalition that liberated the emirate Feb. 26, 1991, after seven months of occupation by Iraq and newspapers have already branded the defendants as Iraqi agents.

Kuwaiti authorities arrested the alleged hit team April 13, one day before Mr. Bush and his entourage arrived for a three-day visit to receive the thanks of Kuwaitis.

Security authorities say the alleged plot was organised by Iraq's intelligence service. Baghdad denies that and has accused the United States of fabricating the conspiracy as an excuse to attack Iraq.

The White House has said it will consider military action against Iraq if Baghdad is proven to have been involved in the alleged assassination plot.

A team of U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and secret service agents who interviewed the suspects determined that they were sent by Iraq.

Twelve of the suspects, including a Kuwaiti and an Iraqi who lived in the emirate, face death by hanging if convicted.

Two Kuwaitis who hid the alleged would-be assassins, who posed as whisky smugglers, could get five years in prison if found guilty.

Four of the seven Kuwaiti lawyers appointed by the court to defend the alleged plotters refused to take the cases, saying they had moral qualms about representing suspects they considered to be enemies, or had other commitments.

It is still not clear whether the court has found replacements. Mr. Abu Hamad told the

Associated Press, he fears that some of the attorneys appointed by the court will not be able to handle the "emotional cases."

"There are good Kuwaiti lawyers, but it's not very likely that every Kuwaiti lawyer will be impartial," Mr. Abu Hamad said.

Defence attorneys were not available Friday to say whether they have seen the defendants or not because of the week-long vacation for the feast of 'Eid al-Adha that ends Saturday.

But one of them, Mohammad Ashkanani, told the AP last week: "We have to keep our personal feelings aside. I took an oath... it's my duty to defend my client even if he is an enemy. We respect human rights. We're not like Iraq."

Jean-Philippe Lavoyer, Kuwait representative of the International Committee of the Red Cross, said he has seen the suspects and talked with them. But he declined to give any details.

Judge Salem Al-Khaidar, one of three judges who will preside over the trial in the heavily guarded no-jury security court, said the defendants will be "comfortable enough" to testify whether they have been mistreated in custody.

He told the AP the court will refer defendants who complain of torture to doctors and if it is proven they were made to confess under duress, the court will acquit them as it did many people accused of collaborating with the Iraqi occupiers.

There were widespread allegations of human rights violations during the collaboration trial held in the emotionally charged atmosphere following liberation.

In those trials, more than 150 men and women were sentenced to prison terms of up to 25 years. Around 30 were given the death penalty, but later had their sentences commuted to life imprisonment.

Mr. Abu Hamad said Middle East Watch had suggested that Arab lawyers from other countries should defend the suspects to ensure a fair trial, but Kuwaiti authorities turned that down.

Security authorities say 10 of the defendants crossed from Iraq with an explosives-laden car that was to be blown up near the building where Mr. Bush was to receive an honorary degree.

If that failed, one of the men was to strap explosives to his body and blow himself up when he got close to Mr. Bush, authorities said.



The grandmother (second right) of Turkish child Guelvestan Ozturk, who was killed in an arson attack in Germany May 29, and their relatives sit and mourn Thursday in front of their home in the village of Merdinek (AFP photo)

State funeral for arson victims

TASOVA, Turkey (AP) — Turkish and German officials called for restraint Friday at a tense state funeral for the Turkish victims of a deadly arson attack in Germany.

A few hundred demonstrators chanted anti-Nazi slogans and carried banners which read "Death to neo-Nazi bastards," "Hitler's pigs," and "Kill first, apologise later."

Just before the start of the funeral, the protesters burned two Nazi flags.

German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel, who headed a German delegation at the ceremony, addressed the crowd while protesters echoed in the background.

Mr. Kinkel said the Germans would never forgive those responsible from the attack which

he described as a "shameful violence."

Two women and three girls died in the firebombing attack in Solingen, Germany, last week. It was the deadliest attack in a surge of neo-Nazi violence that erupted after German reunification in 1990.

Unemployment and economic hardships in former East Germany have increased right-wing sentiments.

Three Turks were killed in a similar attack in the northern German city of Moelln last November.

President Suleyman Demirel, speaking at the ceremony, called for calm, saying Germans should not be held responsible for the attack.

Mr. Kinkel assured the crowd that the German government

would do its utmost to provide a safe life to the foreigners.

Four German suspects are under arrest in connection with the attack.

Turkey's acting Premier Erdal Inonu and seven other Turkish cabinet members were also present at the ceremony.

The mourning villagers voiced anger and despair. They said the attacks were aimed at the foreigners to scare them out of the country.

"These attacks are to open jobs for the East Germans," said Adnan Kose.

"The German welcomed those who went there 30 years ago with hands, now they are sending us back their ashes," Recep Kaymak, a relative of the victims, said.

Major's popularity nose-dives

LONDON (AP) — Conservative Party leader John Major is now the most unpopular prime minister since opinion polling began in Britain in the 1950s, according to a Gallup poll published Friday.

The poll in the pro-Conservative Daily Telegraph indicated that only one in five voters are satisfied with Mr. Major's performance.

The rating was worse than the low point of his predecessor, Margaret Thatcher. She hit 23 per cent satisfied in the spring of 1990 — seven months before she was ousted in a Conservative Party revolt and succeeded by Mr. Major in November 1990.

Mr. Major brushed aside the plunging ratings and news reports that he is weary and depressed.

"I'm weary of gossip dressed up as news," said Mr. Major. "I've some bad news for some people — I'm fit, I'm well, I'm here and I'm staying." He told a rally of Conservative Party women.

His speech, including warning about cuts in state expenditure and promises to resist European Community plans to regulate working hours, drew polite applause.

Mr. Major's popularity has nose-dived since took the Conservatives to a fourth successive national election, victory in April last year — mainly because Britain's longest post-war recession persisted, and the party has broken promises about not raising taxes.

On May 26 in an attempt to revive his administration's image, Mr. Major sacked his treasury chief, Chancellor of the Exchequer Norman Lamont.

But Gallup, which questioned 1,074 voters between May 26 and May 31, found that the sacking of Mr. Lamont has made no difference.

The main opposition Labour Party, with 49 per cent support, had a record 24-point lead over the Conservatives, on 25 per cent, according to Gallup.

The Conservatives were only two points ahead of Britain's third running party, the centrist Social Democrats, now eroding middle-class support in the prosperous south of England — traditional Tory strongholds. The error margin in the poll was 2.5 per cent.

Just 12 per cent of voters said they were satisfied with Mr. Major's performance. He was rated equally with two other prominent politicians in his 22-member cabinet, Trade Secretary Michael Heseltine and the new chancellor of the exchequer, Kenneth Clarke, as likely to make the best prime minister.

Mr. Major's problems have been compounded by big divisions among the normally well-disciplined Conservatives over ratification of a treaty on closer European union.

Pro-democracy meeting broken up in Shanghai

BEIJING (AP) — The Chinese authorities prevented pro-democracy activists in Shanghai from commemorating the 1989 Tiananmen Square crackdown Friday, detaining the organisers for 24 hours and ordering him not to leave the city.

Meanwhile, at least four Shanghai activists were arrested last month as part of a crackdown on dissidents in the run-up to the crackdown's anniversary.

Zhang Xianliang, 48, a veteran pro-democracy activist, was detained Thursday, a day before he and more than 30 other dissidents planned to meet in People's Park in the heart of Shanghai, the dissident said by telephone.

Mr. Zhang was released after being held for 24 hours of questioning by policeman on the increasingly active pro-democracy movement in China's largest city.

Police told Mr. Zhang that they had visited the other activists and warned them not to participate in the memorial activity.

Mr. Zhang was also informed that he was being released on bail and was barred from leaving Shanghai without prior police approval. His daughter would be held responsible if he violated the ban, the police told him.

Mr. Zhang is a veteran of the 1978 Democracy Wall movement in Beijing, during which he wrote numerous essays in favour of more democracy. He was later jailed for five years for his activities, but the dissident vowed Friday to "continue to strive for democracy" in China.

On Wednesday of last week, police arrested three other political activists who were active in an unofficial labour union set up during the 1989 protests.

Iran remembers Khomeini with fierce anti-U.S. blast

TEHRAN (Agencies) — Iranian spiritual guide Ayatollah Ali Khamenei Friday blasted the United States for its "open animosity" against Iran and vowed his country would oppose pressure by all means.

But he denied U.S. charges that his country supported fundamentalist movements around the world.

Ayatollah Khamenei was addressing special Friday prayers marking the death four years ago of the Islamic republic's founder, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini.

"America's animosity and opposition against us has become open and more intensified," Ayatollah Khamenei said.

The United States stepped up its opposition to Iran because "our policies are not influenced by theirs" and because Tehran refused to compromise on the Palestinian issue.

"We have suffered many blows from the United States and we will suffer more in the future, but our people will be able to defeat the enemy," Ayatollah Khamenei said.

On the Middle East peace talks, he said Iran opposed it because "Palestine belongs to the Palestinians."

"Jews can remain in Palestine, but the government of Israel should be dismantled," he said at Ayatollah Khomeini's shrine.

Vast crowds of black-clad men and women packed the golden-domed shrine at Ayatollah Khomeini's tomb south of Tehran, beating their breasts in mourning.

Several thousand Muslims from other countries, especially from former Soviet republics, have gone to Iran for week-long ceremonies to honour the legacy of the stern religious and political leader who died four years ago.

Many more Iranians from across the country have converged on Tehran, where streets,

shops and government buildings are draped in black flags of mourning, and portraits of Ayatollah Khomeini.

Ayatollah Khamenei, leading mass prayers at the shrine broadcast over Tehran Radio, said the United States had shown only hostility to the Islamic state Ayatollah Khomeini founded after the 1979 revolution which toppled the western-backed Shah.

He said in a sermon that the United States, which accuses Iran of supporting "terrorists," was itself a sponsor of "terrorism" because of its backing for Israel which he called a "usurper and terrorist regime."

"Our nation has succeeded in frustrating the enemy despite all its plots over almost 15 years," he said.

"I tell you that you are able again to inflict absolute defeat on America and its allies in the arena of their confrontation with the Islamic Republic of Iran."

Tehran Radio said 20,000 Basij paramilitary volunteers were employed in a huge logistical operation to house the mourners over the past week in scores of schools, mosques and other public buildings.

Dozens of refrigerated shipping containers provided food and cold drinks around the shrine near the Behesht-e-Zahra cemetery 20 kilometres from the centre of Tehran.

A fourth minaret 91 metres high erected at the shrine was completed in time for this year's ceremonies.

Ayatollah Khomeini died on June 3, 1989 after cancer surgery. He was buried after a tumultuous funeral three days later. Iran marks the anniversary on June 4, the day his death was announced.

Ayatollah Khamenei urged people to turn out in big numbers to vote in presidential elections,

NEWS IN BRIEF

Youth leaders of PLO, Israeli party to meet

STOCKHOLM (R) — Leaders of youth groups from the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and Israeli Labour Party will take part for the first time in a Middle East seminar near Stockholm this month, Swedish radio reported Thursday. It said Ofer Dekel, general secretary of the Israeli party's youth wing, would meet Samir Sbihiat, chairman of the Palestinian Student Organisation at the seminar from June 21 to 24 at Bommersvik, a lakeside study centre near Stockholm. The Youth League of Sweden's opposition Social Democratic Party is sponsoring the talks, which Swedish radio said would be the first official talks between Israeli and PLO representatives since Israel lifted a ban on such contacts in January. "We hope for a meaningful discussion as a contribution towards the Middle East peace process," said Karl-Petter Thorwaldsson, chairman of the Social Democratic youth group.

Iran's population growth rate declines

NICOSIA (R) — Iran's annual rate of population growth has dipped to 2.3 per cent due to public education and availability of birth control devices, the government said Thursday. A government study in April found the population growing at 2.3 per cent a year, down from 2.5 per cent last September and a revised 2.7 per cent from a census in September 1991. Vice-President Hassan Habibi said on Iranian television. Iran, which has 57.8 million people according to the 1991 census, has stepped up birth control programmes in recent years despite some opposition by traditionalist Muslim clerics. The country in the 1980s had an annual population growth rate above three per cent, among the highest in the Middle East. Parliament passed a law last month aimed at limiting families to three children. It cut benefits like insurance and maternity leave for the fourth and subsequent children.

Algeria concerned at French immigration moves

PARIS (R) — Algeria's ambassador to Paris has said that French government plans to clamp down on immigration were alarming millions of young Algerians and gave the impression France was blaming its woes on outsiders. "The Algerian community has felt very strong pressure for the last two or three months," Ambassador Ahmad Ghazali told reporters. "Young people are very anxious. Three million people are worrying." He was speaking the day after France's new conservative cabinet approved measures to tighten the control and availability of residency papers, ease up the procedure for expulsions and make it harder for foreigners to marry or bring their families to France. Immigration was one of the key issues which won the centre-right a landslide victory over the outgoing socialists in March's French parliamentary elections. New Interior Minister Charles Pasqua is a renowned hardliner who said this week his aim was to stop the flow of immigrants to France completely.

Tunisia sends aid to occupied territories

TUNIS (R) — Tunisia sent a ship carrying humanitarian aid to Palestinians in the Israeli-occupied territories on Thursday, Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat told reporters. He made the announcement after meeting Tunisian President Zine Abidine Ben Ali. Tunisian officials gave no details of the aid but said it would be shipped to the U.N. agency in charge of helping Palestinian refugees.

Swedish parliament appeals to Saddam

STOCKHOLM (AP) — Parliament leaders sent a letter Thursday to Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, appealing for the release of three Swedish engineers imprisoned nine months ago for allegedly crossing the border from Kuwait. The engineers, setting up a telephone network, said they had strayed across the unmarked border by accident. They were sentenced to seven years in prison by an Iraqi court last September. "A positive message from the president would make it possible for the three Swedes to be reunited with their families and friends," said the letter to President Saddam. Iraq's Foreign Minister Mohammad Said Al-Sahhaf said in a Swedish television interview broadcast Wednesday night that more humanitarian aid to Iraq would win the Swedes' release.

Kurdish rebels kill seven in Turkey

DIYARBAKIR, Turkey (R) — Turkish officials said Thursday that Kurdish rebels killed seven people including a mother and her two children in three separate incidents in eastern and southeastern Turkey Wednesday. Two guerrillas of the banned Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) were also killed, they said. The mother and her children were killed when about 40 PKK guerrillas raided Selvi village in Bingol province on Wednesday night, they said. Four guards and another woman were wounded. Five people — four village guards and one PKK member — were killed in a clash in Cevrek village in Hakkari province near the Iranian border. Twenty villagers were wounded. In the third incident, the PKK raided Sucati village in Mardin province and kidnapped three women. One guerrilla was killed in a clash with security forces.

Australian civil servant charged with espionage

CANBERRA (AP) — A Public servant believed to have been a former Soviet spy working for years inside Australia's intelligence agency appeared in court here Friday on 22 charges of espionage, sources in the capital Canberra said. His arrest followed an intensive investigation by officers of the Australian federal police and the Australian Security Intelligence Organisation (ASIO), according to a joint statement by Attorney General Michael Lavarch and Justice Minister Duncan Keir. The 22 charges relate to the alleged removal of classified documents from the ASIO, the statement said. Information suppressed by the Canberra magistrate included the person's identity and other personal details, but sources told AFP the accused is an Australian public servant who is believed to have worked for the former Soviet Union over a period of years.

Israeli police seek former banker's arrest

TEL AVIV (R) — Israeli police are seeking the arrest abroad of Ernest Japhet, former chairman of Bank Leumi, in connection with a 1983 banking scandal that cost the government more than \$9 million, Israeli Radio said Friday. Mr. Japhet, 72, quit in 1986 and left for New York after he and other top commercial bankers in Israel were implicated by a state inquiry into the manipulation of bank share prices. Other bankers have been on trial for fraud since 1991. The government was forced to bail out shareholders after the prices of bank shares — regarded by Israelis as an almost non-risk investment — collapsed in 1983. It paid more than \$9 billion for assets worth far less and only last month finally began selling off bank shares, starting with 20 per cent of Israel's largest bank, Bank Hapoalim. The radio said Interpol on Wednesday issued an international warrant for Mr. Japhet's arrest at the request of Israeli police seeking his extradition.

Detective killed in Newark courthouse

NEWARK (AP) — A narcotics detective was shot to death Thursday at the county courthouse and a sheriff's officer was seriously wounded while trying to help him, authorities said. Two arrests were made outside the building and a third person was being sought, Police said. The shooting occurred outside the courtroom of Judge Serena Perretti. The detective, who was shot in the head was a witness in a case before Mr. Perretti.

China arrests six in new Tibet protest

BEIJING (R) — Police arrested six people in the Tibetan capital of Lhasa Friday to stop a small demonstration against Chinese rule in the remote Himalayan region, travellers said. A small group of demonstrators carrying three flags of an independent Tibet circled Barkhor Square in the centre of the city as crowds of pilgrims visiting the nearby Jokhang Temple for a Buddhist festival stood and watched. Police quickly moved in and arrested the six, including a monk, putting them into the windowless covered truck kept permanently in the square to whisk away protesters. The whole episode lasted only a few minutes.

COLUMN

Mrs. Clinton is out of a job

WASHINGTON (AP) — First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton is out of a job. The president's Task Force on National Health Care Reform that she headed without pay has quietly gone out of business. "The final decisions are now in the president's hands," said Health and Human Services Secretary Donna E. Shalala, one of the task force members. The timetable for releasing Mr. Clinton's blueprint for restructuring the \$900 billion U.S. health system has been pushed back repeatedly. But the dozen-member task force that the first lady chaired is no more. It expired last weekend. "They've done their work. There was no reason to extend the task force," Robert Boorstin, a White House spokesman, said. "The president had given options. He'll continue discussing things with senior advisers who at one point were members of the task force," said Mr. Boorstin. Mrs. Clinton's task force included six top White House economic and domestic advisers and a half-dozen members of the cabinet. The task force met 23 times in late April and May, including on a few occasions with the president. It held one public hearing. It was also the subject of an ongoing lawsuit by medical groups that wanted it to conduct all its business in public.

Woman gets 2 lungs from donor's one

PARIS (AP) — A French medical team has given an ailing woman two new lungs cut from the single lung of a male donor, doctors said, calling it the first such transplant ever performed. The surgeon, Dr. Jean-Paul Couetil of Paris' Broussais Hospital, said the 40-year-old patient, identified only as Marie, was doing well after the May 15 operation. She was suffering from severe asthma and pulmonary fibrosis and had been confined to the room for 18 months. The operation represents a breakthrough for certain patients, particularly children, suffering from some lung diseases, the doctor said. "With two adult lungs, it will be possible to make four small ones and operate on two children," Dr. Couetil said. The donor, at 80 kilos (176 pounds) nearly double the weight of the petite Marie, was in an irreversible coma following a car accident, but one of his lungs remained healthy. The 10-hour operation involved surgically separating the superior and inferior lobes of the donor's healthy left lung and re-implanting the two pieces in Marie's thorax. Doctors had to recreate missing arteries, veins and bronchi on the one portion of the lung, "but beyond that it was a very simple operation," Dr. Couetil said. The doctor noted that rejection of the new organs remained a risk and means Marie must take an anti-rejection medication for life. The operation could give new hope to small children waiting for two new lungs of the right "fit."

Ramos gets his energy from corn flakes

MANILA (R) — Philippine President Fidel Ramos, who works 16 hours a day seven days a week, has revealed the secret of his energy: Clean living and corn flakes. "I've been eating corn flakes for the past 40 years," he told guests at the opening of a \$35-million cereals factory in nearby Batangas City. A physical fitness buff, the 65-year-old former police general keeps a hectic schedule that begins at 5 a.m. with exercises. Cabinet ministers get a call from him as early as 6 a.m. aides say. "Clean living and a breakfast of cereals... I make it a point to eat cereals three times a day," Mr. Ramos said.

Fergie's sister settles libel case

SYDNEY (AP) — A long-running legal battle over newspaper articles that labelled the sister of Britain's Duchess of York Sarah Ferguson ended in an out-of-court settlement. A Supreme Court jury in 1990 awarded Jane Makin \$210,000 for articles published two years earlier by Australian newspapers owned by Rupert Murdoch's News Limited. The jury found the newspapers wrongly suggested Mrs. Makin had an affair with an Argentine polo player. When News Limited launched an appeal, Mrs. Makin, who lives in Australia, filed a counter-appeal seeking more money. Lawyers for both sides said these appeals had now been dropped after a negotiated settlement. They did not disclose any details.